



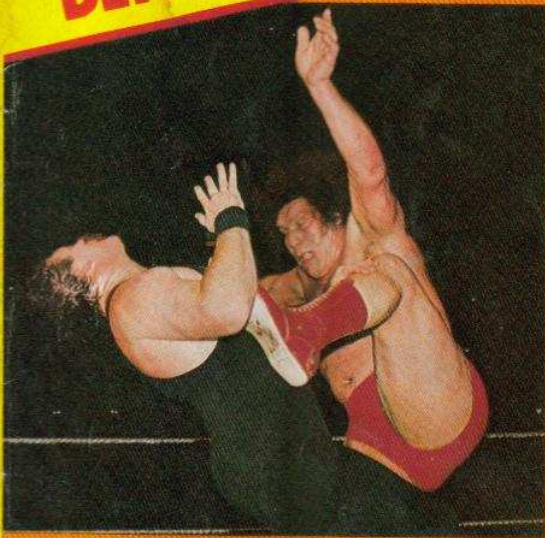
CAN RICK MARTEL MAKE IT ON HIS OWN?

August 1981

47951 \$1.25

THE Wrestler

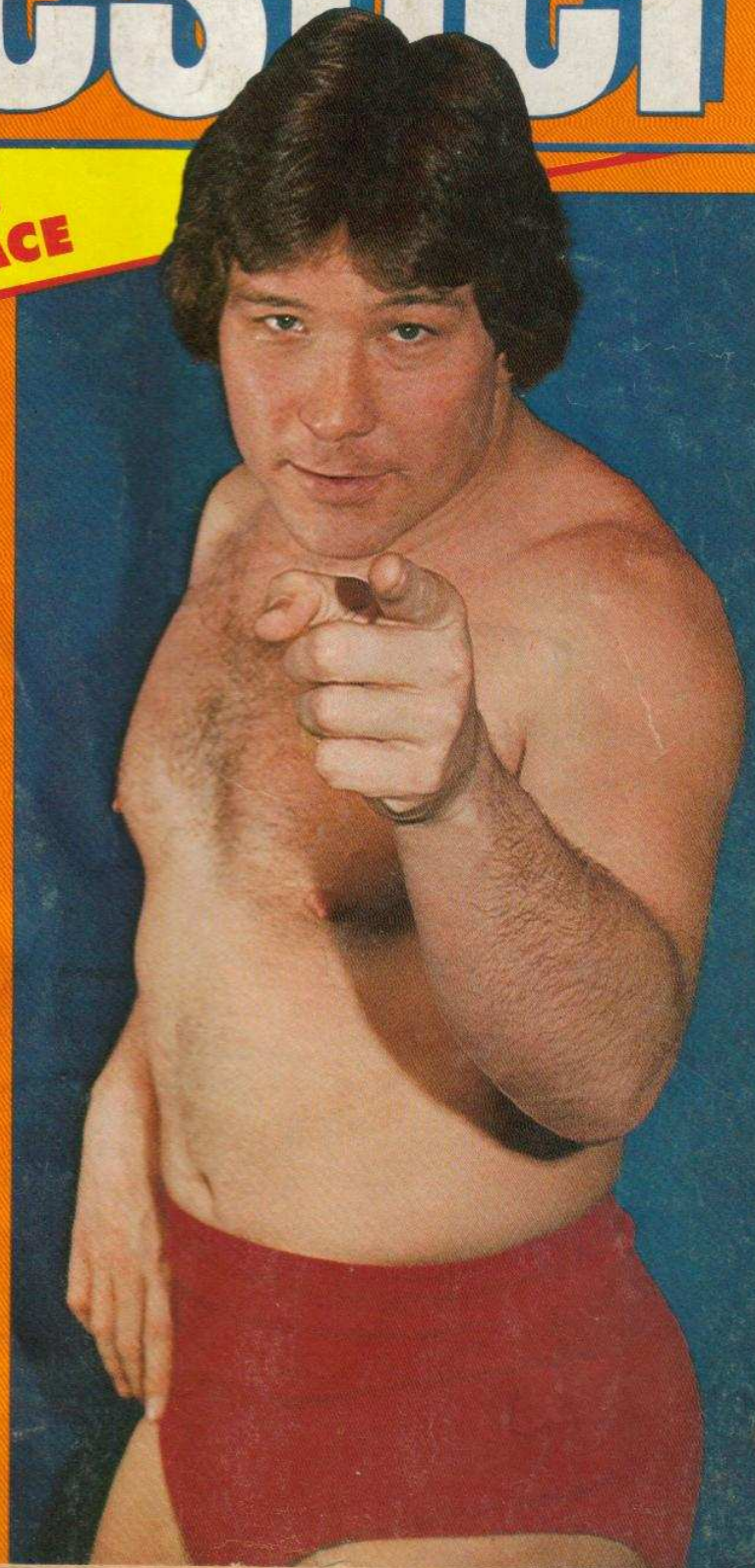
**TED DiBIASE:
NOW I KNOW I CAN
DEFEAT HARLEY RACE**



**Andre vs. Slaughter:
WHY THE WWF
IS DETERMINED
TO BREAK
SGT. SLAUGHTER**

**MR. WRESTLING II
STALKS THE ASSASSINS**

**THE 500-POUND CHALLENGE
VERNE GAGNE TOOK TOO LIGHTLY**



OFFICIAL WRESTLING RATINGS

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

Champion: BOB BACKLUND

- 1—KING KONG MOSCA
- 2—MAGNIFICENT MURACO
- 3—STAN HANSEN
- 4—PEDRO MORALES
- 5—SGT. SLAUGHTER
- 6—PAT PATTERSON
- 7—GEORGE STEELE
- 8—RICK MARTEL
- 9—KILLER KHAN
- 10—TONY GAREA

AMERICAN WRESTLING ASSOCIATION

Champion: VERNE GAGNE

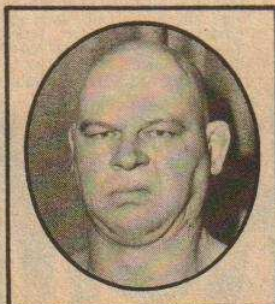
- 1—CRUSHER BLACKWELL
- 2—NICK BOCKWINKEL
- 3—JOHN STUDD
- 4—BARON VON RASCHKE
- 5—CRUSHER
- 6—DINO BRAVO
- 7—TITO SANTANA
- 8—JIM BRUNZELL
- 9—GREG GAGNE
- 10—JERRY LAWLER

MOST POPULAR

- 1—ANDRE THE GIANT
- 2—DUSTY RHODES
- 3—BRUNO SAMMARTINO
- 4—MIL MASCARAS
- 5—BOB BACKLUND
- 6—WAHOO McDANIEL
- 7—BARON VON RASCHKE
- 8—RIC FLAIR
- 9—TONY ATLAS
- 10—TED DiBIASE



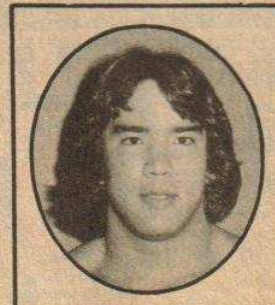
PAT PATTERSON



BARON VON RASCHKE



MASKED GRAPPLER



RICK STEAMBOAT

NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE

Champion: HARLEY RACE

- 1—RODDY PIPER
- 2—TONY ATLAS
- 3—TED DiBIASE
- 4—IVAN KOLOFF
- 5—DUSTY RHODES
- 6—JIM GARVIN
- 7—SGT. JACQUES GOULET
- 8—RIC FLAIR
- 9—TERRY FUNK
- 10—LES THORNTON

TAG TEAMS

- 1—PAUL JONES & MASKED SUPERSTAR
- 2—THE MOONDOGS
- 3—JESSE VENTURA & ADRIAN ADONIS
- 4—THE FABULOUS FREEBIRDS
- 5—THE ASSASSINS
- 6—MASKED GRAPPLER & SUPER DESTROYER
- 7—MR. FUJI & TENRYU
- 8—KEVIN & DAVID VON ERICH
- 9—THE SAMOANS
- 10—MASSA FUCHI & MR. ONIETA

MOST HATED

- 1—IVAN KOLOFF
- 2—SGT. SLAUGHTER
- 3—SUPER DESTROYER
- 4—CRUSHER BLACKWELL
- 5—KING KONG MOSCA
- 6—HARLEY RACE
- 7—MAGNIFICENT MURACO
- 8—KEN PATERA
- 9—GINO HERNANDEZ
- 10—BRUISER BRODIE

WHAT'S HAPPENING!

By BILL APTER

SIR OLIVER HUMPERDINK has a special gleam in his eyes these days. The last time he looked this way was back in May 1980 when he almost ended the career of Mr. Florida.

To refresh your memories, Humperdink tossed a lit cigar into the ring where his wrestler, Super Destroyer, was battling Mr. Florida. Super Destroyer picked up the cigar and threw it into Mr. Florida's eyes, causing severe damage to Mr. Florida's retina. After the incident, Humperdink claimed that he accidentally dropped the cigar in the ring and Super Destroyer was trying to throw it out when Mr. Florida got in the way.

Well, Humperdink has done it again. But this time he was a little less subtle. This time he tossed medicated powder to Sgt. Jacques Goulet, who blinded Sweet Brown Sugar and grabbed his Southern championship. This time he offered no excuses for the substance he was obviously responsible for. This time he blamed it on the victim.

"First of all," Humperdink says, "Sugar brought some sort of pouch into the ring. I was sure he planned to use it against the Sergeant. Well,

the masked clown dropped it, and Jacques, always a good sport, went to throw it out of the ring. Sugar



GOULET



SUGAR

got in the way, and that's the whole story. Our hands are clean!"

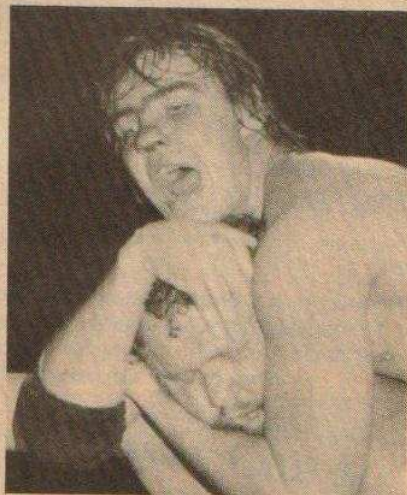
Humperdink's past record does not speak well in his defense. Neither does that gleam in his eyes.

Rick Steamboat had what he termed a "bad night" in Norfolk, Virginia. It was very bad. Rick lost the Mid-Atlantic title to Ivan Koloff. "I just couldn't do anything right," Rick told us after the match. "I don't know what was wrong with me" . . . Georgia's scientific wrestling community is bracing for the arrival of two of wrestling's most ruthless rule-breakers, Ken Patera and Bruiser Brodie.

When you look at this month's ratings, don't think we made an error when you see the name of Baron Von Raschke listed in the

number seven position in our "Most Popular" ratings. According to the mail we have been receiving from fans in the AWA, the Baron is tops with them since he began warring against Crusher Blackwell and John Studd.

You will never see the name Barry Windham in our magazines again. For that matter you will

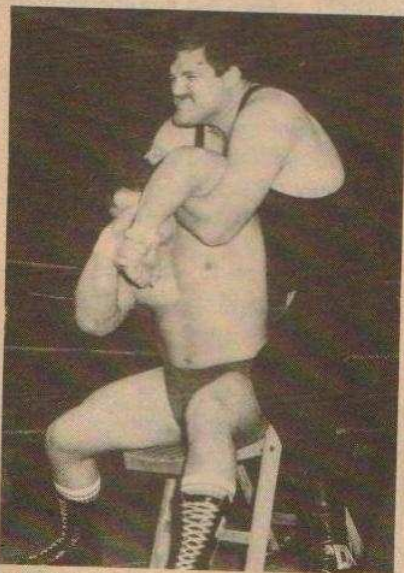


Barry Windham's name will never appear in this magazine again. But don't worry; his career is far from over.

never hear Barry's name announced in an arena ever again! The startling reason why breaks in our next edition of *Inside Wrestling* on sale June 23. Don't miss this
(Continued on page 48)

YOU ASKED US

Here's the monthly feature which YOU get to write! It's your chance to have a top wrestler answer YOUR question! Only the best questions will be answered—so put on your thinking caps and come up with some good ones! Address your questions—and who you would like to have answer them—to: YOU ASKED US, c/o THE WRESTLER, PO BOX 48, Rockville Centre, N.Y. 11571. Questions will be answered only in this column and at our discretion!



Sgt. Slaughter wins another Cobra Clutch challenge as Rick McGraw can't break the hold and fails to win the \$5,000 check.

Q: "Could you ask Sgt. Slaughter who he thinks his toughest opponent is and who has given him the toughest time trying to escape from the Cobra Clutch?"—John Leon, Richmond Hill, NY

A: "There's not a soldier alive who can escape my Cobra Clutch. I've wrestled non-comms and officers, I've

wrestled buck privates and colonels, and none of 'em are worthy of my time. They're all a bunch of cowards who should be thrown out of the service or made to do latrine duty. Toughest opponent? Who is there, Patterson, Backlund, Sammartino, or Morales? Not a dime's worth of difference between any of 'em."

Q: "I would like to know what WWF champion Bob Backlund thinks of that good for nothing creep Stan Hansen?"—Anthony DeRosa, Mastic Beach, NY

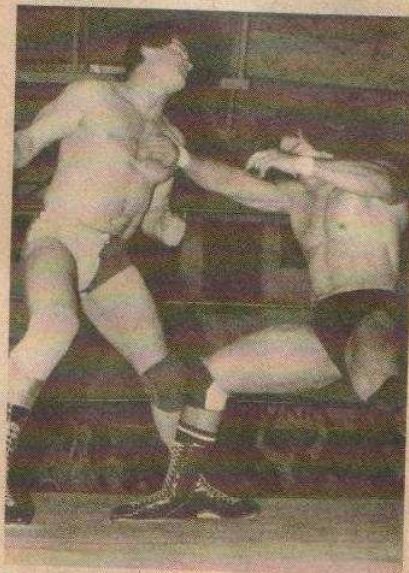
A: "To be perfectly honest, Anthony, I don't think much of Hansen," said Backlund. "All he knows how to do is break the rules. He hasn't a sliver of decency or respect for any life at all. He only cares about himself. He'd turn on his own best friend if the money was right. I don't see what there is to like about

Hansen. As far as I'm concerned, he's a first-class menace to the WWF, and I am trying to do everything in my power to get rid of him real quick."

Q: "Could you please tell me where Austin Idol, my number one favorite, is wrestling?"—Terry Douglas, Charleston, SC

A: Right now, Idol is delighting capacity crowds throughout Japan. Additionally, Idol has been wrestling in Tennessee.

Q: "Does Rick Steamboat think Roddy Piper is really that hot,



Rick Steamboat stops Roddy Piper in his tracks with a karate thrust to the throat. Rick considers Piper a talented wrestler.

or does Piper just have a big mouth?"—Francis Zepp, Roanoke, VA

A: "To be honest, I think it's a combination of both," said Mid-Atlantic champion Steamboat. "I think Piper is fairly talented and the mere fact he was able to harness his winds and direct his energies

(Continued on page 56)

CORRESPONDENTS' Reports

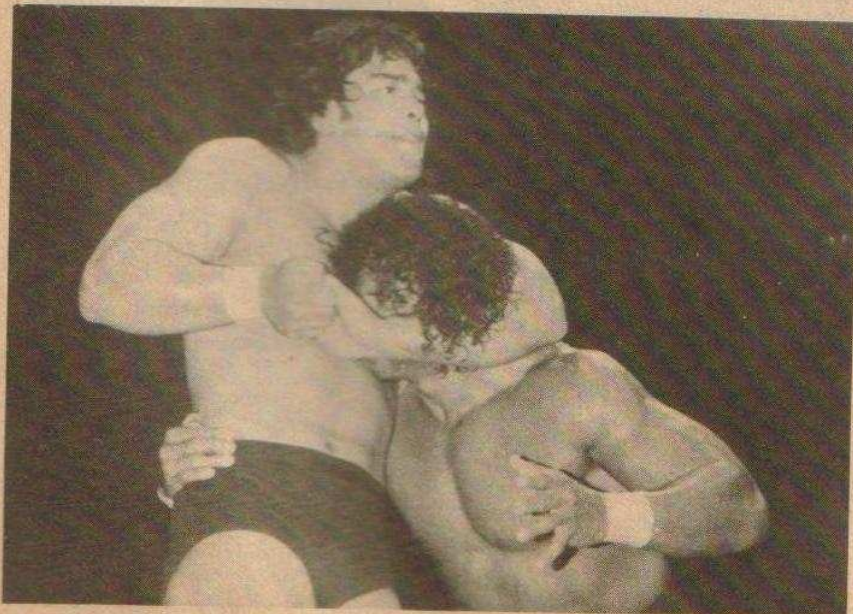
S T. PAUL, MN—Correspondent: Mike Heath—There was a record sell-out crowd to witness a brutal match between Baron Von Raschke and Crusher Blackwell. Raschke, seeking to pay back Blackwell for that hideous attack on Von Raschke's friend Mad Dog Vachon, controlled the match from beginning to end. At one point in the match, Blackwell jumped off the top rope to try and squash Von Raschke, but the Baron moved out of the way. After that, Von Raschke made short work out of Blackwell for the win.

In other matches, Greg Gagne and Jim Brunzell won a non-title match over AWA tag team champions Jesse Ventura and Adrian Adonis . . . Nick

If you would like your area of the country represented in these reports, while also being officially credited with your own by-line, send us reports of the matches you attend. You will have the thrill of seeing your name in an internationally known magazine while at the same time helping to improve the quality of wrestling in your area. So why not give it a try? You will be glad you did!

Send your reports to: Correspondent Editor, Box 48, Rockville Centre, N.Y. 11571.

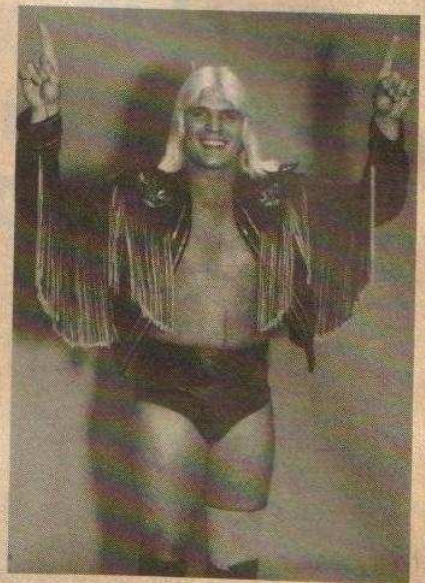
Bockwinkel beat Pat O'Connor . . . Tito Santana won by disqualification over John Studd . . . Bobby Heenan used a foreign object to turn back Buck Zumhoffe . . . Brad Rheingans beat Steve Regal.



Rick Steamboat retained his cool and his Mid-Atlantic title against Jimmy Snuka.

GREENSBORO, NC—Correspondent: Ronnie Olive—It was a big night at the Greensboro Coliseum with several exciting matches. The highlight of the evening was a battle between Mid-Atlantic champion Rick Steamboat and fiery challenger Jimmy Snuka. Snuka tried to use every dirty trick in the book to force Steamboat into losing his temper. But Steamboat kept in control of his anger and used brilliant scientific maneuvers to whip Snuka.

In other bouts, Don Kernodle won by disqualification over Kurt Von Hess . . . Jim Nelson defeated Rick Ferra.



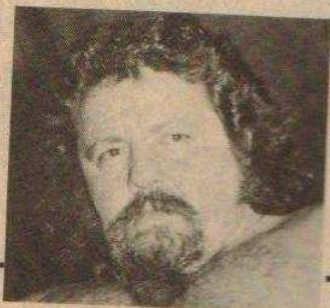
Tommy Rich, who has assumed his old position near the top of the "Most Popular" ratings, turned back Michael Hayes.

COLUMBUS, OH—Correspondent: Shawn Wiseman—Another great card at the beautiful Ohio Center saw Tommy "Wildfire" Rich take on controversial Michael Hayes. The match started out even as Rich and Hayes battled from one end of the ring to the other. After about 20 minutes, Rich flung Hayes into the ropes and crashed into him with a cross bodyblock. Hayes was devastated and never recovered as Rich pulled off the victory.

(Continued on page 54)

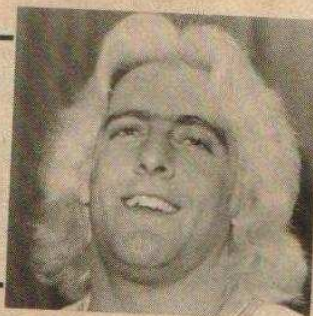
Every issue, this magazine praises the noteworthy and damns those who violate the spirit of wrestling's dignity. The praiseworthy are given a "thumbs up," the disgraceful are marked with "thumbs down." Here is this month's roll of honor and shame

Thumbs Up



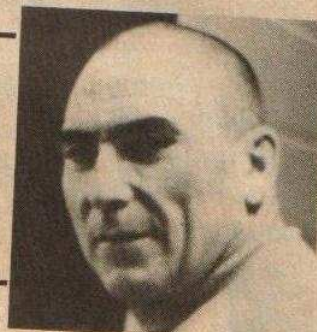
THUMBS UP to Captain Lou Albano: His overwhelming genius and extraordinary instincts have once more resulted in a tag team championship, this time The Moondogs wrestling away the WWF title from Tony Garea and Rick Martel. Say what you will about Albano, he accomplishes what he predicts.

THUMBS UP to Ric Flair: He's avoided the temptations to turn bad again. Despite the persistent rumors, Flair remains steadfast in his determination to wrestle within the rules and not betray the trust and love of his public. His attitude, in an era of quick treachery, is commendable.



THUMBS DOWN to Dick Slater: All his career, Slater's made a point of bragging about his courage. But all his courage seems to consist of is mere words. His inability, or rather, reluctance to defend his Southern title underlined Slater's abject cowardice. This man did not deserve to be champion and was rightfully stripped of the title.

THUMBS DOWN to Mongolian Stomper: This immense, sadistic man allows a parasite paranoic like Don Carson to manage him. One day Stomper will receive the beating of his life. Perhaps then he will wonder whatever happened to his life and why he squandered his skills.



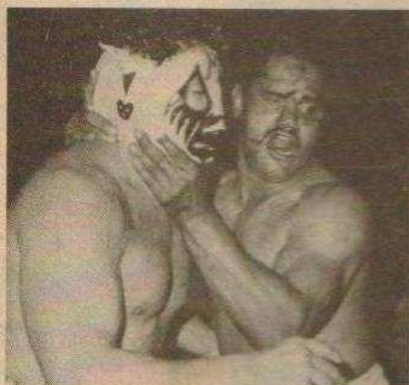
THUMBS UP to Mil Mascaras: In a time when the WWF is being overrun with sadistic rulebreakers like King Kong Mosca, Magnificent Muraco, and George Steele, Mascaras has returned. He promises to aid WWF champion Bob Backlund in ridding the area of these ruthless maniacs.

(Continued on page 58)

Thumbs Down

Q&A

Each month, **THE WRESTLER** will present a "Question and Answer" forum with an important figure in the wrestling world. It is your chance to meet wrestling's biggest stars as they answer the questions uppermost on the fans' minds



Mil Mascaras' mask is ripped during a wild melee with Victor Rivera. Victor's mother made him realize how shameful his actions were.

Q: Victor, nice to see you again.

A: Well, nice to be here, talking and saying hello to my fans.

Q: Your career has been one of different paths, wouldn't you say?

A: Well, I want to say to all my fans that Victor Rivera is clean, he is a good man who will no more hurt and attack men and want to rip out their eyes.

Q: Why the change?

A: My Mama helped me change.

Q: Your mother?

A: My Mama wrote me a very stern letter. She said she was very ashamed of me. She said she didn't raise her son Victor to go out and break laws. She say I should go back and be nice to all those wonderful fans and wonderful people who were so kind to me. So now I do that. I no longer managing and wrestling. Now I just wrestle.

Q: Can I ask you a very pointed question?

A: Yes, yes, please.

Q: Why should the fans believe you?

A: Maybe they should not.

Q: Are you prepared for that?

A: I know I have been bad. I know I have broken many people's hearts with my bad behavior. But I am a sorry man. I don't want the fans to hate my guts. I don't want the fans to boo me. I

am tired of fans booin' me and I am tired of lettin' men like John Tolos get away with what they get away with.

Q: Now the history of you and John Tolos is one of recurring friendships and feuds.

A: Only once we were friends. Only once. I trust him. I think he was my good friend. I think he care about me. Then I see he did not care about anyone but himself. I see he is a very bad person. Then I see how wrong I am.

Q: Why did you befriend him in the first place?

A: Because he make many promises and I was very upset with things happening to me. I did not think I get anywhere in life unless I team with someone like John Tolos. I am wrong. I realize I am mistaken.

Q: Why did you manage men like Black Gordman, Great Goliath, and Eddy Mansfield, and also advise someone like Roddy Piper?

A: Because I was very confused back then. I think this is the way to live. I think I do good by helping these people. Then I realize they are so mean that they turn



VICTOR RIVERA

VICTOR RIVERA HAS led a remarkable and controversial wrestling career. He has darted back and forth between wrestling cleanly and dirty. He has feuded with John Tolos and embraced him as a friend. He has managed such diabolical maniacs as Eddy Mansfield, Great Goliath, and Black Gordman. Now, Rivera insists he has changed yet again. He vows never to wrestle against the rules. In this probing interview from Los Angeles, Victor Rivera discusses the change.



Rivera trusted John Tolos and Tolos spit in his face. He learned the hard way that there can be no trust amongst rulebreakers. Victor is now doing his best to right his wrongs, and he has started by trying to annihilate Tolos.

on anything and everyone. I cannot stand that. I was not able to look at myself in the mirror. I am ashamed, like my Mama say.

Q: What sort of things did you teach these people?

A: I teach them how to hurt. I teach them how to cheat. I was no better than them. Only when I saw what

happens when they do these things, how they do hurt, that I started to feel bad. I must say all this to my fans so they know I am sincere. I do not want anymore cheating from Victor Rivera. I want all the fans in California and all over the world to know that Victor Rivera is a nice person.

Q: Except, perhaps, The Twin Devils?

A: I hate them.

Q: Why?

A: They are bad men.

Q: What makes them so bad?

A: All they want to do is hurt and make people bleed. They do not care for wrestling. They only care for them, only want to make money and hurt people. I do not like that.

Q: And, of course, there is you and John Tolos.

A: He try to cripple Chris Adams. He try to hurt my friend Chris. No one can get away with that with my friends. I want to stomp on Tolos until he is not able to move. Then he will learn his lesson.

Q: Can someone like Tolos ever learn his lesson?

A: I do not know. But I learned mine. □

The absolute last thing professional wrestling needed was yet another deranged rulebreaker intent on twisting off limbs and ripping out eyes. Yet that is precisely what American wrestling fans in the Deep South must witness as Bobby Eaton explodes onto the wrestling scene

INTRODUCING



BOBBY EATON

TWO DATES STAND out in Bobby Eaton's mind.

"Yup, back in 1976, May it was," said Eaton, a strapping 235-pounder. "Made my professional debut and whupped the guy from one end of the ring to the other. Only mistake I made was the way I wrestled."

The comment is explained by the second stand-out moment in Eaton's memory.

"I wasted my time for three long

years, trying to wrestle as a nice guy, getting stabbed in the back by those supposed nice scientific wrestlers and the loud-mouthed fans who never liked me," said Eaton. "But in 1979 I changed to rulebreaking and it was the best thing I ever did."

Eaton attended Lee High School in Huntsville, Alabama, where he took a quick interest in all sports.

"I was great in everything," he said. "Anything I did, it turned to

gold. Nothing was too tough for me. I could score touchdowns, I could hit home runs, I could sink 30-foot jump shots. And I loved to wrestle.

"Professional wrestling always fascinated me," said Eaton. "Something about the sport really intrigued me, and deep in my gut, I knew all along I'd make it. All I had to do was get that first break."

So eager was Eaton to get

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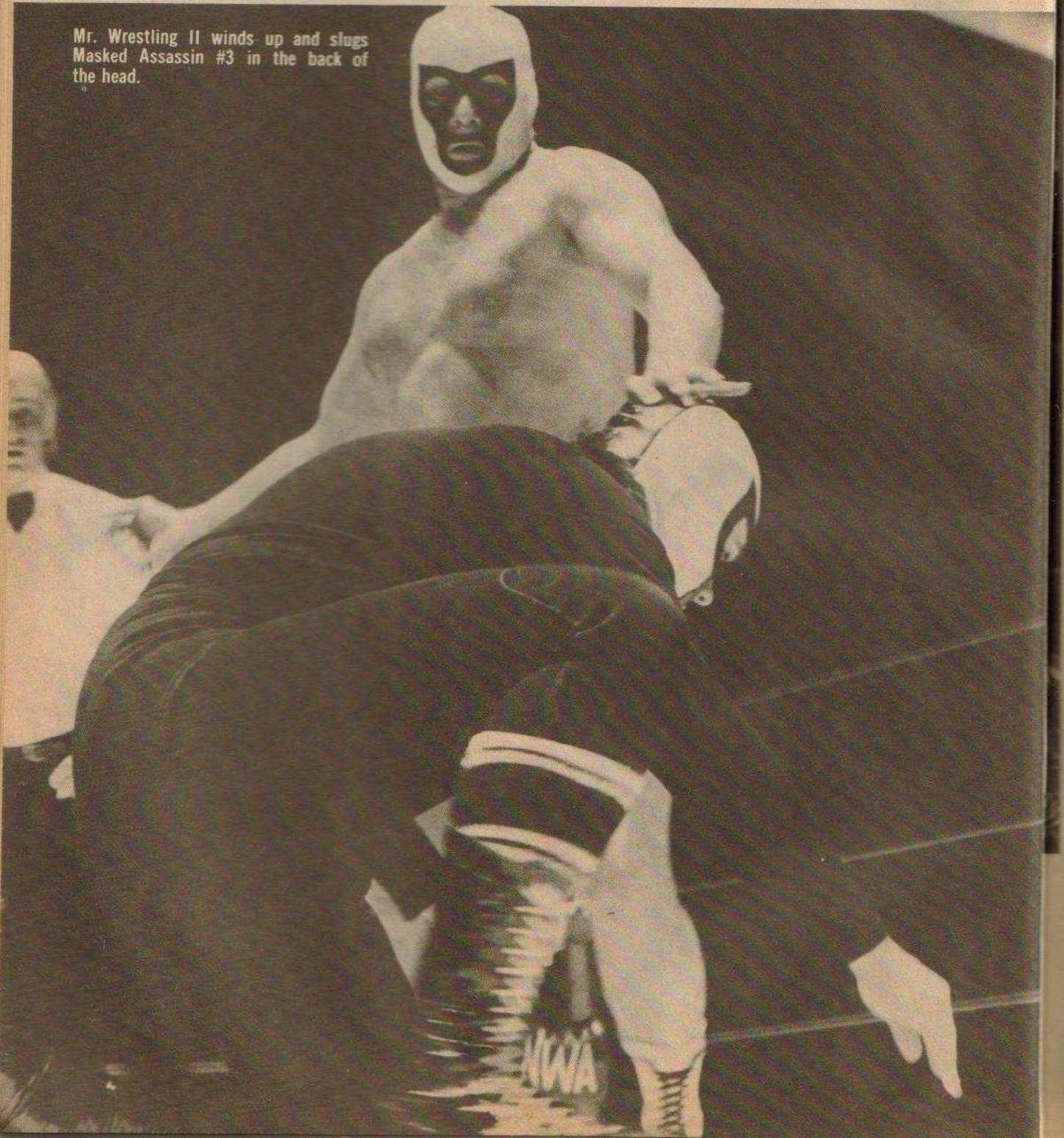
PHOTOS BY BILL APTER

Young Bobby Eaton bends back the wrist
of veteran Mr. Wrestling II.



MR. WRESTLING II STALKS THE ASSASSINS

Mr. Wrestling II winds up and slugs
Masked Assassin #3 in the back of
the head.



HE CHASED THEM out of Georgia and now he must chase them out of Florida.

"I won't rest until they're gone from the face of the earth," thunders Mr. Wrestling II.

Mr. Wrestling II's mission: destroy The Masked Assassins.

"They're like a pestilence, a plague," said II. "Unless they're

destroyed once and for all, they'll continue polluting and fouling this great sport. I chased them out of Georgia. They thought they could run amuck in Georgia, that no one would dare take them on.

"Well, I took them on and scared the pants off of 'em. I thought the wrestling world had

seen the very last of The Assassins. Then I look up and they're still around, only this time in Florida managed by that pig Humperdink.

"I want them. I'm determined with every fiber of my strength to wipe them out once and for all. I don't care what happens to me in this pursuit. The

One thing Mr. Wrestling II will never tolerate is someone mocking the mask. To II, wearing a mask is a holy, sacred duty. Only one who truly believes in the sanctity of the mask deserves to crown his face with one. But The Masked Assassins don't believe as II does. And that's why he must destroy them

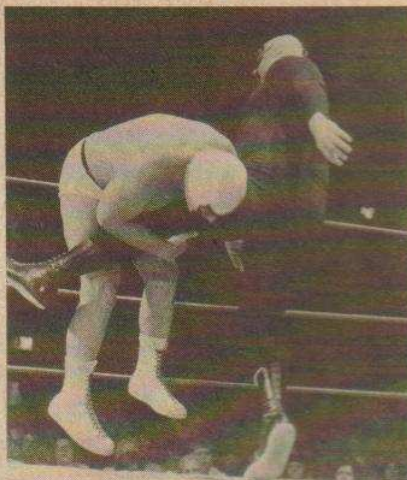
Assassins better be prepared to make Florida their last stand because they're next stop is on a boat in the Atlantic Ocean."

The Masked Assassins, #1 and #3, are presently the North American heavyweight tag team champions. They won that coveted title in an elimination tournament by besting Manny Fernandez and Barry Windham, the last remaining challengers in that brutal tournament.

Once in possession of the title, the Assassins have conducted themselves with characteristic treachery and savagery, descriptions they swiftly deny.

"Us, mean?" snickered Assassin #1. "We're the nicest couple of fellas you'd ever want to know. Our problem is we're too good and everyone down here in Florida is filled with jealousy."

"Yup, we ain't got a bit of competition down here in Florida," echoed Assassin #3. "Now it'd be nice if we could say that old man II is competition, but he ain't. What surprises us is we thought he was in an old age home back in Georgia, just



Wrestling II is lifted off his feet by the force of Assassin #1's kneelift (above). II's struggle is sometimes lonely (below), but he is intent on driving The Assassins out of wrestling.



rocking in a chair and playing with his mask. After the beatings we gave that bum, we thought we'd left him for dead."

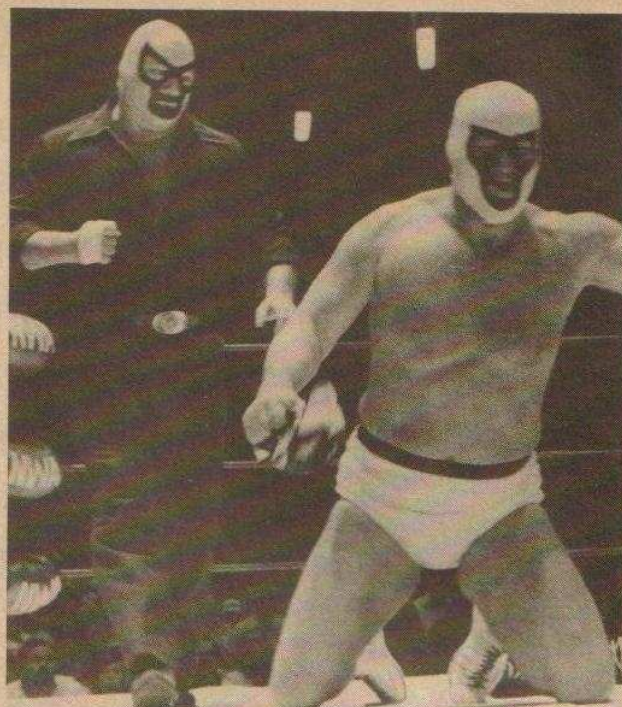
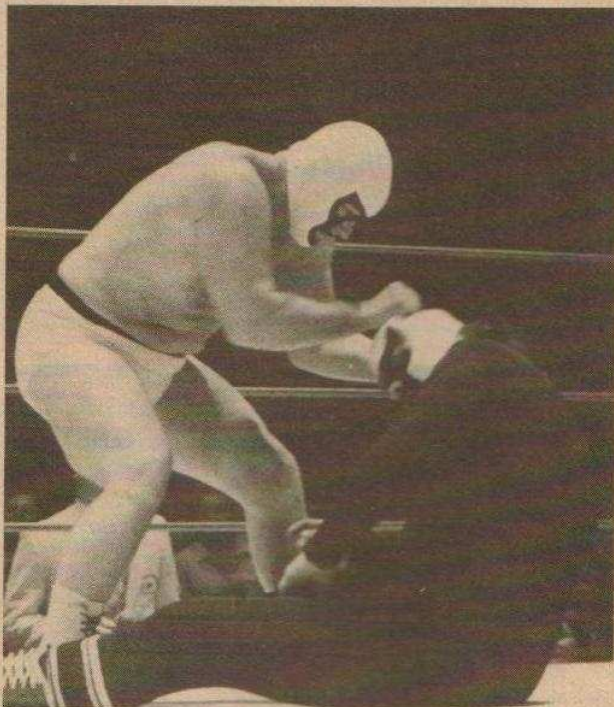
The fact II and The Masked Assassins both wear masks adds to the hatred.

"They debase the sanctity of the mask," yelled II. "I don't like anyone wearing a mask who isn't proud of it. They don't deserve to wear the mask and I'm gonna rip it off and beat their faces into bloody pulps."

"Only reason II wears a mask is that he's so old he can't remember how to take it off," laughed Assassin #3. "Wait'll I get that bum in the ring. I'll show him what wrestling's all about."

Not only are The Masked Assassins physically dangerous, they have the added ingredient of manager Sir Oliver Humperdink, a deranged genius.

"I've always wanted to see Mr. Wrestling II lying in an ocean of blood, his mask drenched in blood, his limbs twisted and broken off, his lips caked with saliva and blood," said Humperdink, smiling. "And my



men are just the ones to do that."

Once the match began, II attacked Masked Assassin #3 with a versatile array of maneuvers. This relentless assault gradually wore down his opponent. After a while, the masked rulebreaker's demise seemed inevitable. Then Assassin #1 interfered.

"I expected that," said II, scowling beneath his mask. "You know those guys can't wrestle cleanly."

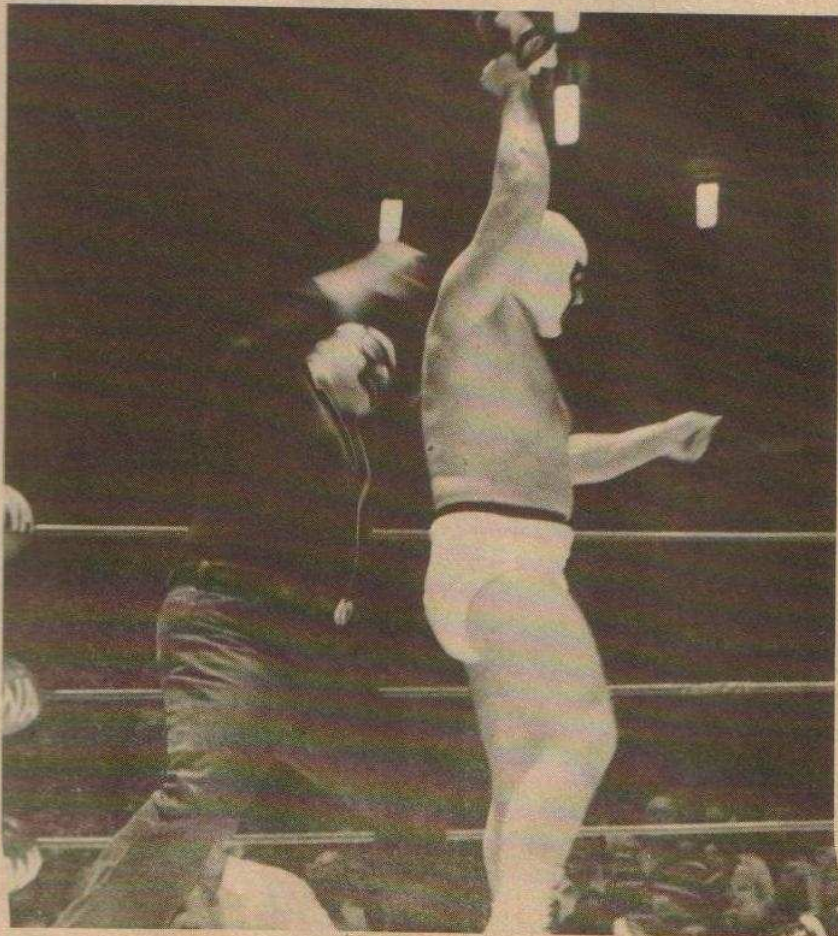
Assassin #1's illegal interference initially caught II off-guard.

"I expected it, but I was luring him into my trap," explained II.

Assassin #1 waltzed right into II's cunning attack and found himself and his partner driven out of the ring. Still, II isn't convinced the war is over.

"As long as those two guys take breaths in the same sport as me, the war will go on. I will never stop my attack on them. I believe too much in this grand sport to allow animals to take over. They better watch out, because Mr. Wrestling II is on the warpath!" □

One way to drive The Assassins out of Florida, Mr. Wrestling II decided, would be to shame them. II rips the mask off a beaten Assassin #3 (above left). But before the fans could get a glimpse of his face, manager Sir Oliver Humperdink covered it with a towel. As an exhausted II kneels with his prize, Assassin #1 sneaks up from behind (above right). II rises and Assassin #1 attacks (below).



DUSTY RHODES' DISSERVICE TO AMERICA

PHOTOS BY BILL OTTEN

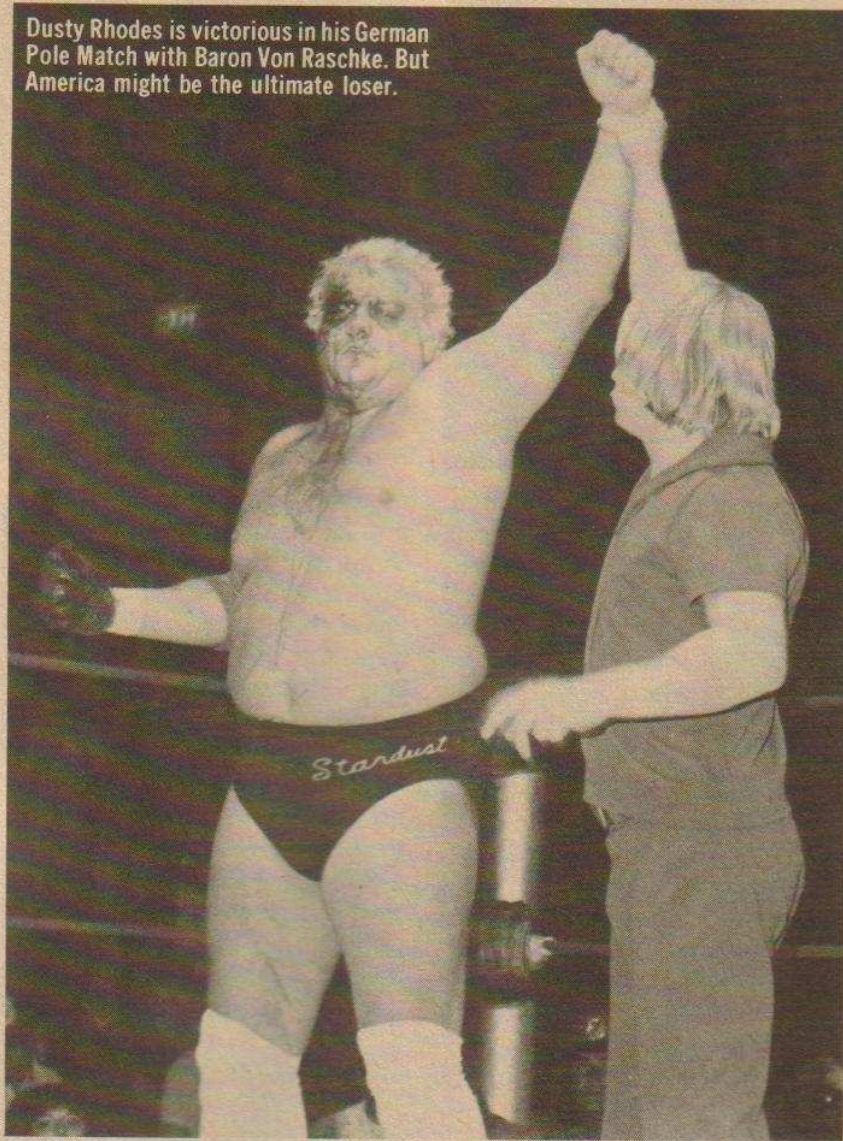
THOUGH THERE MAY be some who can understand why Dusty Rhodes did it, none can forgive him.

For the rest of his career, Dusty Rhodes will have to make up for his great crime against American wrestling. For the carnage that is sure to come, Dusty must be held responsible. History will say that Dusty Rhodes brought the dreaded German Pole Match to American wrestling. History will also condemn him.

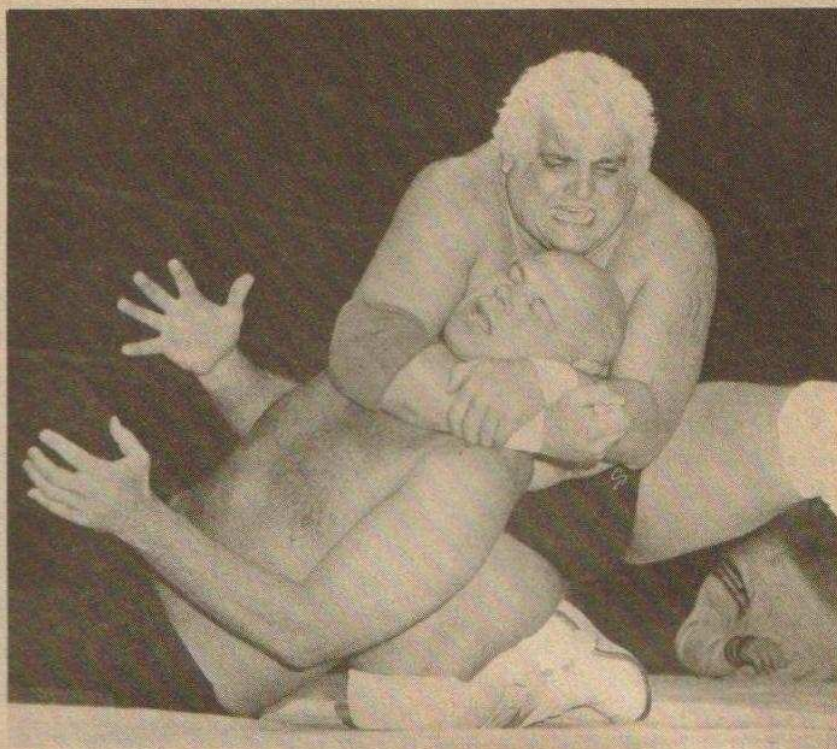
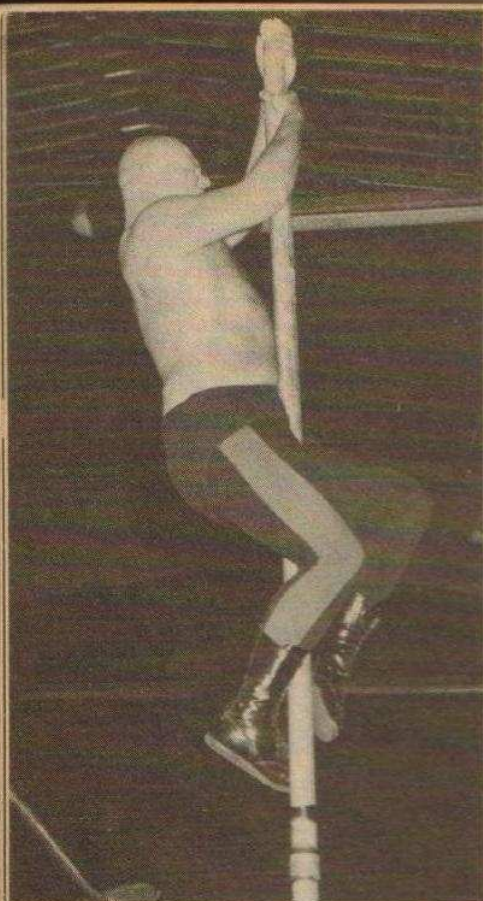
It started several months ago. Baron Von Raschke dared Dusty Rhodes to meet him in a German Pole Match. Up until then, that kind of bloody bout was prohibited in America. There were good reasons for that. In countries where they are allowed, wrestlers regularly suffer concussions, cracked skulls, and shock. In the past six years alone, 18 European wrestlers suffered brain damage after losing German Pole Matches.

It's easy to understand why. In a German Pole Match, a heavily weighted glove is placed high upon a pole. The wrestlers battle to climb the pole and get the glove. Putting on the glove turns

Dusty Rhodes is victorious in his German Pole Match with Baron Von Raschke. But America might be the ultimate loser.



Why did Dusty Rhodes do this to America? Once, the sadistic German Pole Match was kept beyond the American borders. With Rhodes' agreement to wrestle Baron Von Raschke in a German Pole Match, this sordid type of bout has gained interest and is spreading throughout America



Baron Von Raschke makes an early attempt to retrieve the weighted glove from atop the pole (left), but will be rejected by Dusty Rhodes. Dusty locks Von Raschke in a headlock that borders on being a chokehold (above).

a fist into a devastating weapon. If the victim is fortunate, all he'll suffer will be vivid gashes across his face. A punch to the chest can crack a rib.

Von Raschke, one of the cruelest wrestlers in the sport's history, loves German Pole Matches. "Your fist becomes an ax!" he says. "To feel bones cracking, blood gushing, foes falling unconscious at my feet, that is wrestling! I tried for years to have a German Pole Match in this country. They wouldn't let me. Then I figured out that Dusty Rhodes could be suckered into forcing them to grant my wish."

Von Raschke figured right. He mounted a campaign to convince Rhodes to challenge him to a German Pole Match. Whenever Von Raschke went on television, he backed Rhodes in a corner.

"Dusty Rhodes," Von Raschke would spit, "is afraid of me. I challenge him time and time again to a German Pole Match, and he never answers, not even

to admit he's scared. The man is a disgrace. He calls himself the 'American Dream.' Is it possible American Dream is a coward? I have the pole. I have the glove. I have the courage. All I lack is Dusty Rhodes."

Most wrestlers agree Dusty should have ignored the taunts. He didn't. Instead, he put his prestige on the line. Dusty demanded the wrestling authorities allow him to meet Von Raschke in a German Pole Match. They explained to Dusty that the matches are brutalizingly dangerous. They also explained that if one match is held, then any wrestler who wants a German Pole Match must be allowed to have one. A wrestling authority can't make exceptions for favorites.

Dusty was too angry to think straight. He used his considerable influence to change the authorities' decision. He got his match. The German Pole Match had come to America.

Von Raschke was elated. In

the days before the match, he strode about as if he owned the world.

"No matter what happens," he told friends, "I have won a great victory. The German Pole Match can now be held anywhere, anytime in the USA; no one can stop it. Now, all my enemies will feel my crushing power. America is mine!"

On the night of the match, many top wrestlers were at ringside. They were there to study this new and dangerous competition. Each man knew he would be faced with this in the near future. There were no smiles at ringside.

The match was as brutally bloody as feared. Von Raschke was the first to get the glove. He smashed Dusty hard in the head. Rhodes' face was a gory mask of scarlet. Punches to the chest and belly doubled Dusty over.

No one can doubt Rhodes courage. Suffering through this hideous onslaught, he managed to battle back. Somehow, he

took the glove from Von Raschke and went on his own rampage. Von Raschke, all too familiar

with this kind of carnage, rushed from the ring. He knew there would be other matches, other

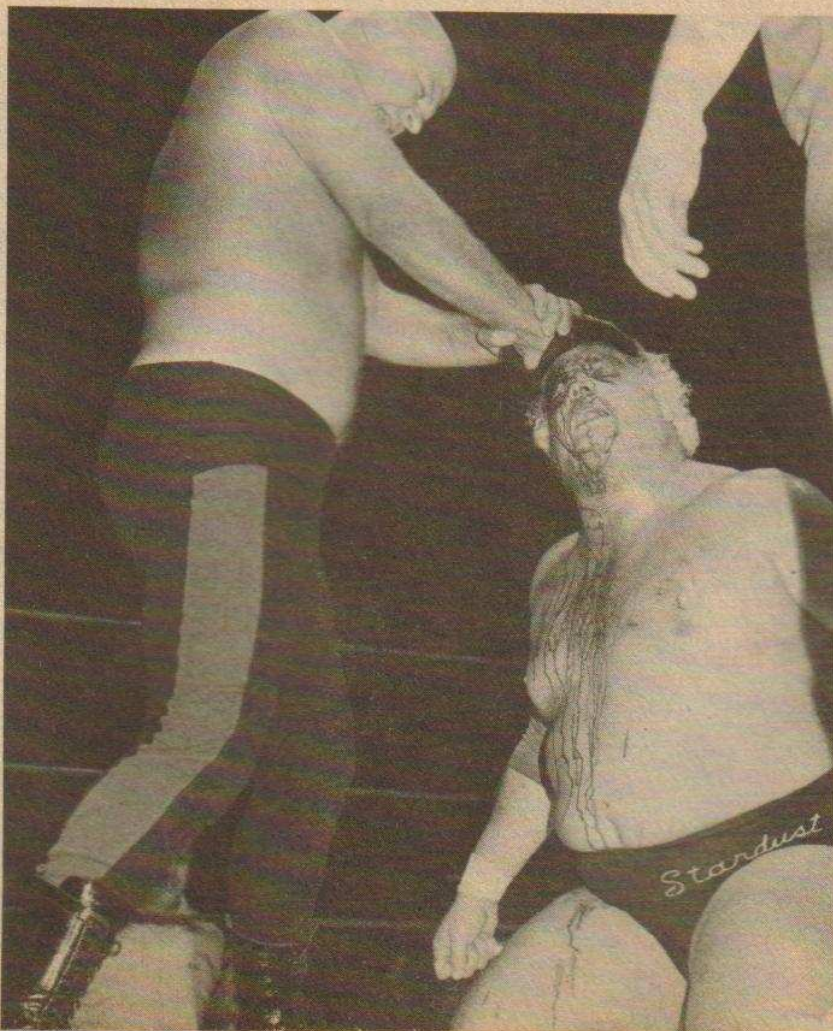
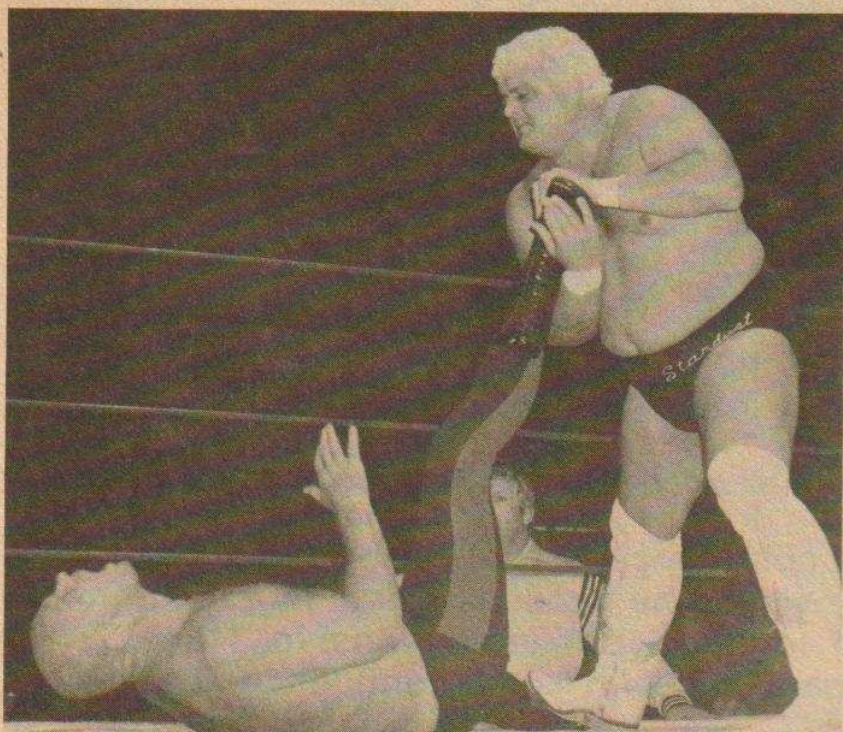
times, better chances to cripple and maim. Von Raschke is a patient man.

Dusty had many friends at ringside. When one of them said, "I hope Von Raschke knocked some sense into that fathead's brain," everyone laughed. It was the only time they would laugh all night.

Later, many of them expressed their anger. They couldn't believe Dusty had been this foolish. He opened the floodgates, insuring a blood-bath. As they talked with one another, one thought was left unsaid. One of their group would surely end his career in a German Pole Match.

No one would ever forgive Dusty Rhodes for what he'd done. The stakes are too high, and Dusty was too foolish. Dusty Rhodes has introduced the greatest danger to professional wrestling.

Before the loaded glove became a factor in the bout, Rhodes held the advantage. Keeping Von Raschke's left foot in place, Dusty spreads the Baron's legs beyond normal limits (above). Rhodes lands an elbow to the top of the German's head (below). Once in possession of the glove, the complexion of the match turns to scarlet (right).



TED DiBIASE: NOW I KNOW I CAN DEFEAT HARLEY RACE

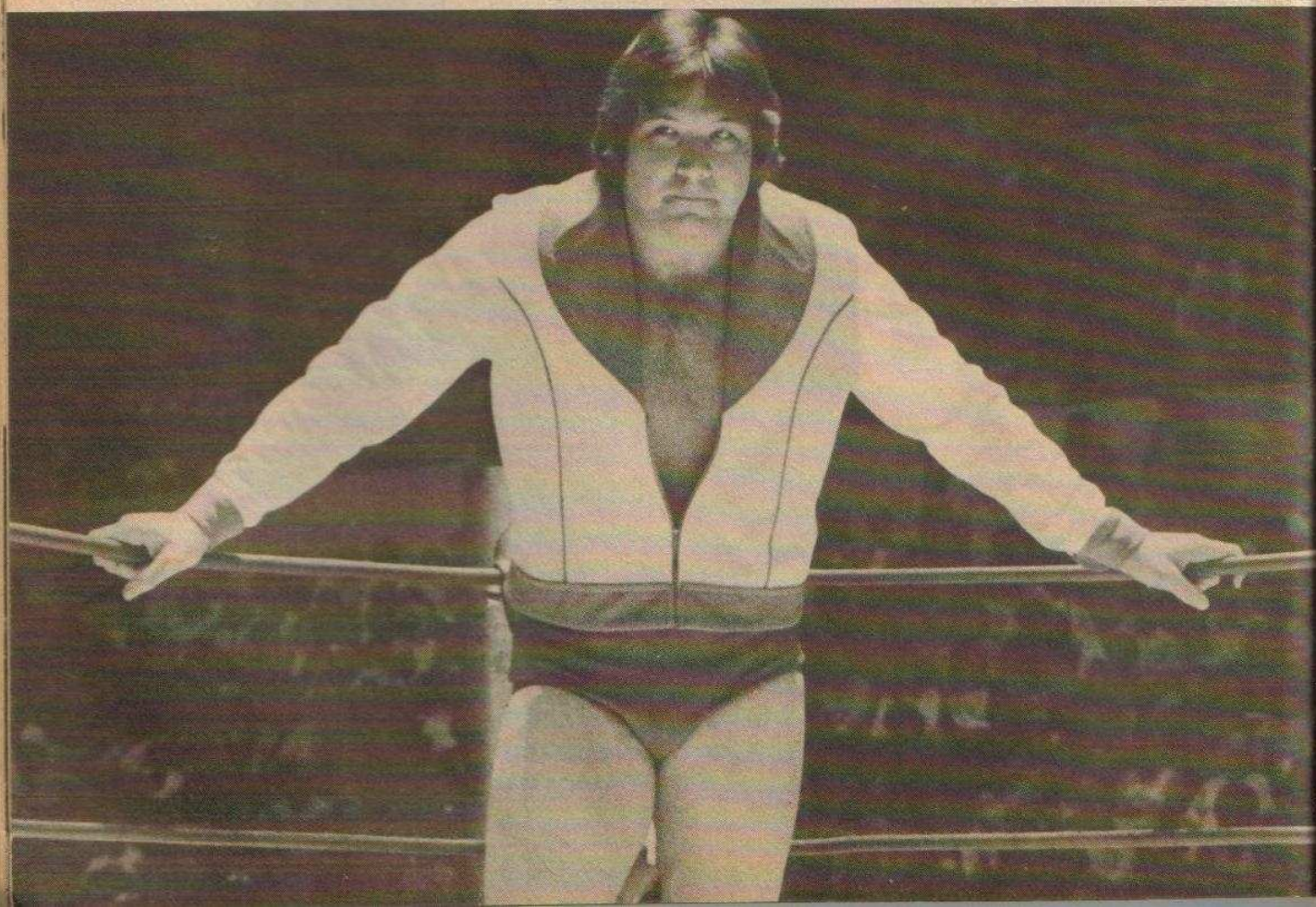
ONE MANEUVER FROM the title. One *wrong* maneuver from the title. An accident. A freak. Something Ted DiBiase lives with every second of his waking and subconscious life.

"I can still see it. Every day, I think about how I could've been NWA champion and wasn't, all because of that maneuver," said DiBiase, shaking his head and sighing.

It happened in St. Petersburg. Ted DiBiase vs. Harley Race for the NWA title. The young challenger seized control from the opening bell. He was fluid, tough,

Never one to lack for confidence, Ted DiBiase has, for several months now, been insisting he needs one final ingredient to defeat Harley Race for the NWA championship. Now the young challenger can say with total confidence that he is ready

PHOTOS BY JERRY PRATER



and determined. Every single maneuver was absolutely perfect. Every shred of strategy was well-timed, well-executed, and exciting.

As the match progressed, tension enveloped the arena. History was about to be made. It could be felt. Everyone thought that this would be Ted DiBiase's night.

"Me, too," said DiBiase with a wry grin.

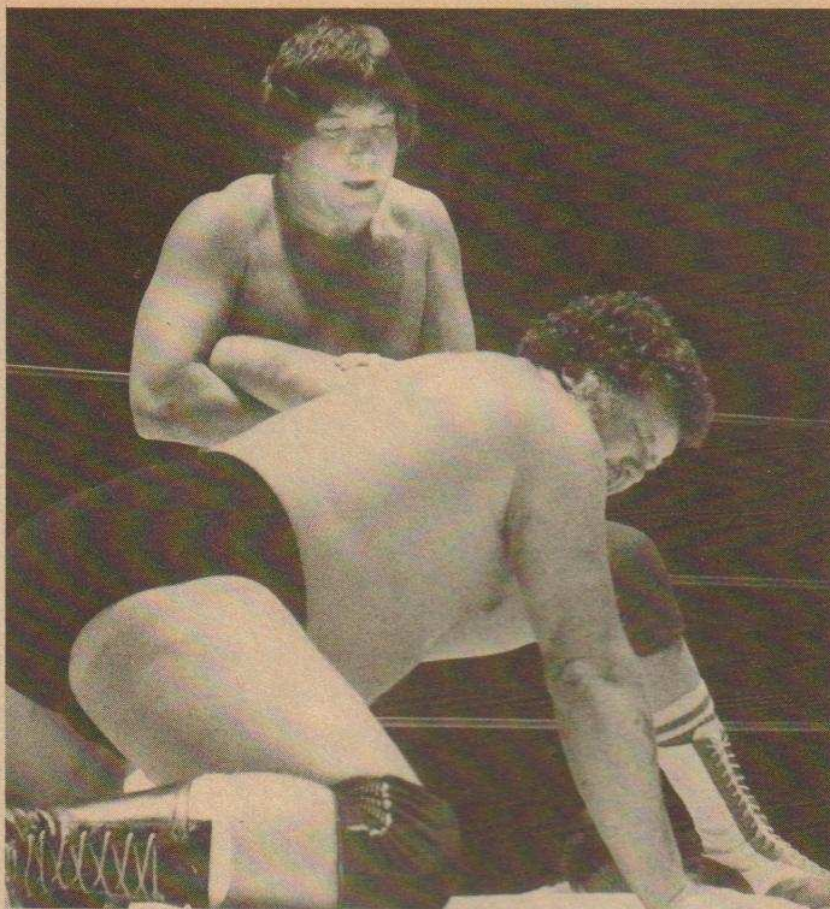
With Race on the verge of exhaustion, DiBiase moved in for the final move.

"I knew I had him," said DiBiase.

Race bounced off the ropes, desperate for any defensive maneuver. As the champion careened off the ropes, DiBiase met him with a backdrop. And then it happened.

"My stomach dropped when I saw him flying over the top rope," said DiBiase.

Sure enough, Race soared out of the ring, invoking an immediate



What at the time seemed to be a devastating blow to his NWA title hopes, Ted DiBiase's disqualification loss to Harley Race might well have given him the confidence to get the job done the next time they meet. Ted was in total control when he accidentally backdropped Race over the top rope, drawing an automatic DQ. Ted's armlocks (above and below) immobilize the champion.



disqualification for DiBiase and depriving him of a sensational victory he and everyone else in the arena thought a certainty.

"I just wanted to cry, really, to have it end like that," said DiBiase.

Some insisted Race flung himself over the top rope, a theory the NWA champion vehemently denies.

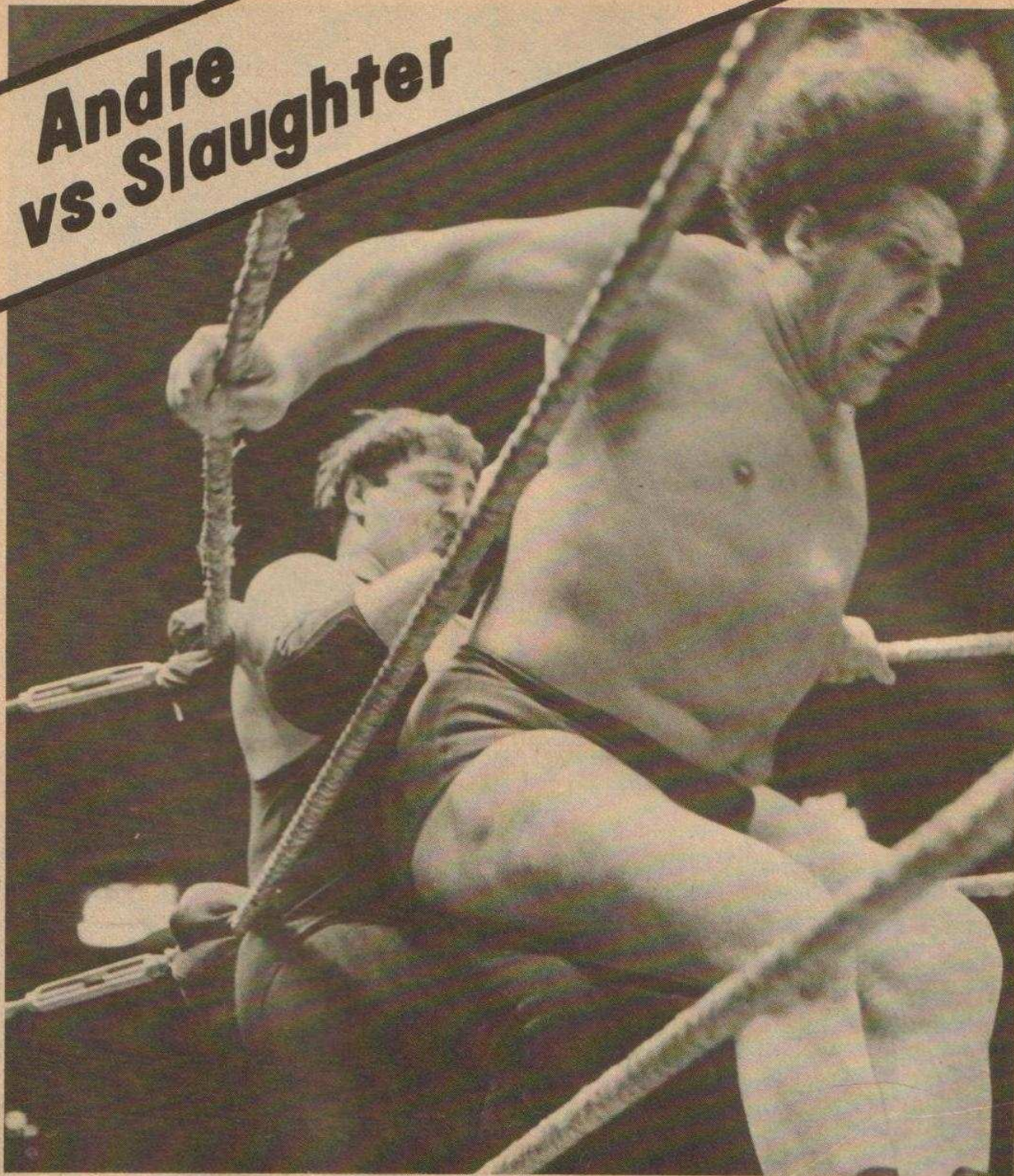
"You think I gotta pull stuff like that against a bum like DiBiase?" asked Race. "He tossed me over, it was a good call by the ref, it was a disqualification, and that's that. I don't have to resort to stuff like that against a punk like DiBiase."

Even DiBiase refused to join that theory.

"It's so hard to say and, besides, what difference does it make, really?" DiBiase said. "I didn't win,

(Continued on page 52)

**Andre
vs. Slaughter**



**WHY THE WWF
IS DETERMINED TO
BREAK SGT. SLAUGHTER**

BOB BACKLUND. Bruno Sammartino. Pat Patterson. Andre the Giant.

These four brilliant wrestlers have, at one time or another, been opponents of Sgt. Slaughter. And they form part of a bizarre pattern which leads some knowledgeable WWF observers to conclude, tentatively and with great, great reluctance, that the WWF is out to destroy Sgt. Slaughter.

But why?

Some could say that Slaughter's foul, underhanded ways beg these men, these wrestlers of honor and integrity, to confront him on the wrestling field of battle. Yet Slaughter, for all his violence and sadism, is not necessarily the worst rulebreaker ever to set foot in WWF territory.

But something about him has united the WWF scientific wrestling community in a manner never seen before. And it goes far beyond his attitude, his threats, his total behavior. The WWF fears Sgt. Slaughter. They fear what his ultimate victory will mean to the Federation.

And they are out to destroy him.

This time, it is the scientific wrestlers who act vague and uneasy. Usually it is the rulebreaker who avoids a direct answer. But when questioned, all who have confronted Slaughter studiously avoid any mention of a conspiracy against the demented ex-Marine.

"Well, you know, that Slaughter is a mean man and I wanted to give him the whipping of his lifetime," said Andre the Giant. "That is why I wrestled him."

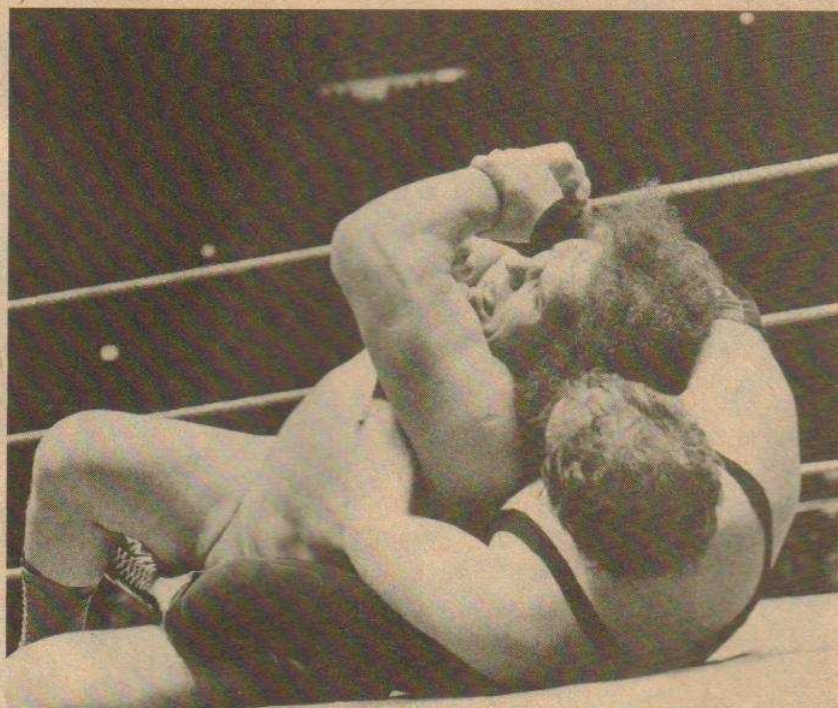
"Doggone that Slaughter, he deserves to be swimming in his own blood," said Bruno Sammartino. "No, I don't talk to anyone else. I want Slaughter

(Continued on page 64)



It seems Sgt. Slaughter never gets a break. Night after night he is in the ring against the toughest wrestlers the WWF has to offer. Andre the Giant lines Slaughter up and fires a right.

Why does the WWF fear Sgt. Slaughter so much? Every well-known and lesser-known scientific wrestler has been trotted out to try and defeat Slaughter and his infamous Cobra Clutch. But why? What terrible threat does Slaughter pose to the WWF? And who wants him stopped?



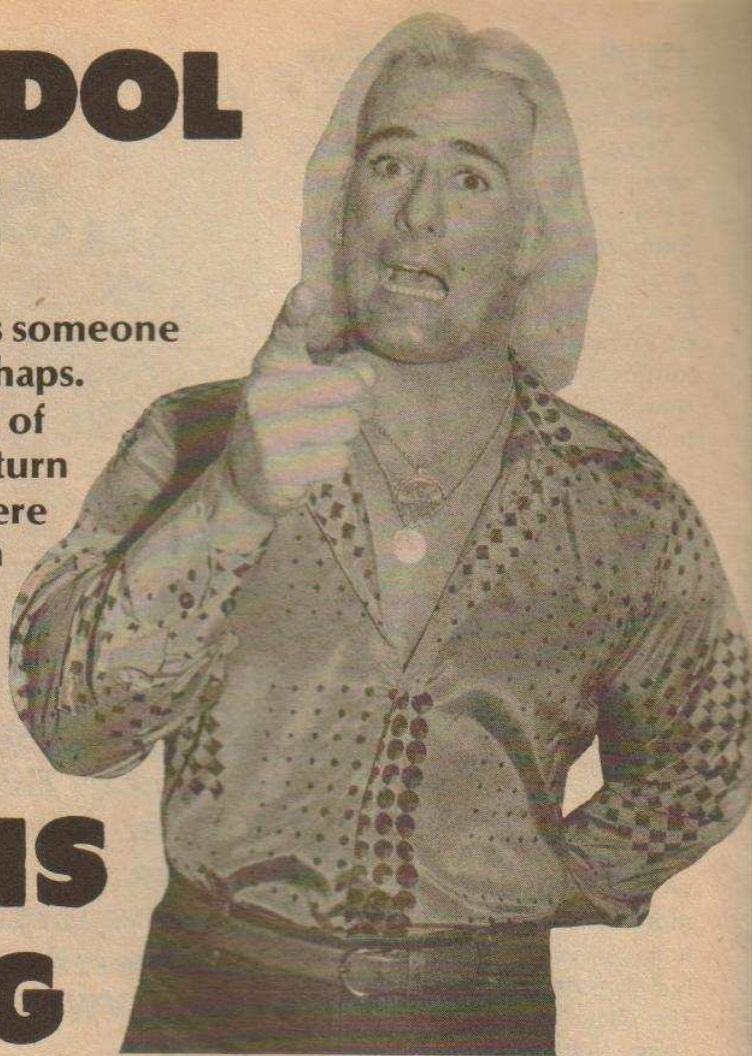
Slaughter tries to roll Andre over into a pinning combination, but the Giant's weight is too much for him. If Slaughter isn't in against Andre, it's Sammartino or Backlund or Morales. The WWF has not been easy on Sgt. Slaughter.

AUSTIN IDOL IN EXILE:

All Austin Idol ever wanted was someone to ask him. Plead with him, perhaps. And despite the onslaught of fan letters demanding Idol return from exile, the blond insists there must be more. He demands an avalanche of fan pleading or else he will remain in exile

PHOTOS BY KOICHI YOSHIZAWA

**"THE FANS
MUST BEG
ME TO COME BACK!"**



THE DAY WAS warm and sunny, a perfect day in a perfect month in the perfect life of Austin Idol. The husky blond grappler might look out of place in Japan, but to him this island nation is paradise. To hear him tell it, he left hell to get here.

"I won't say why I left," Austin Idol declares, "but it was enough to make me go half way around the world. Georgia wrestling is great, but something happened that forced me to leave. Let's just say some people I thought were my friends turned out to be less than trustworthy.

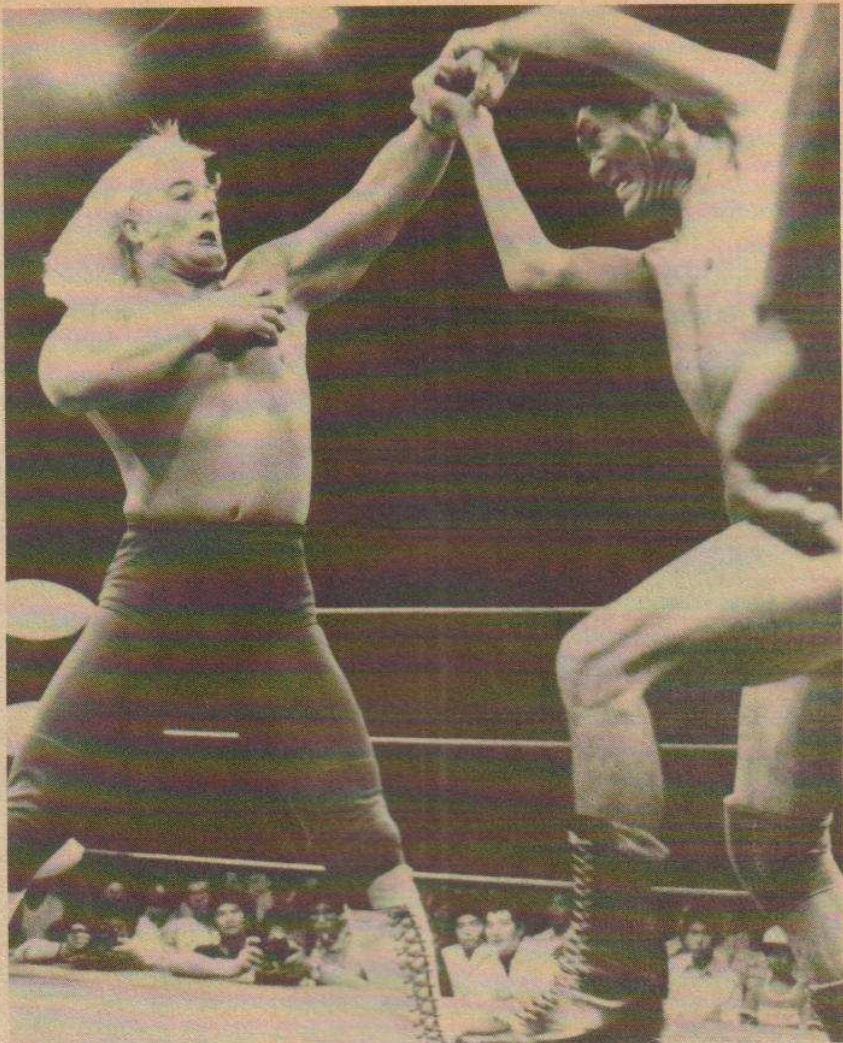
"I had to get out. I couldn't get far enough away. My head was bouncing along the ground. I needed time to think, to get away from it all.

"When the offer came to wrestle in Japan, I took it like a drowning man grabs a life preserver. I figured I'd stay for a few weeks and then go back. That's when I fell in love with the country. Everything I hated at home is just the opposite here.

"These people know how to appreciate a wrestler. The fans here are fantastic. There's no pressure to be someone you're not. I never feel rushed here. The difference between Georgia and Japan is the difference between hell and heaven."

Watching Idol stroll through the Tokyo streets is to see a man at peace with himself. In Georgia, Austin moved with quick, powerful strides, as if daring someone to interrupt his progress. In Tokyo, he moves like a man comfortable with his own space, ready to share for there is no threat of confrontation.

It is reflected in his wrestling. Something special is gained, while at the same time something intangible is lost. In battle, Idol is more confident and relaxed. He experiments,



Though he is on the receiving end against Giant Shohei Baba, Austin Idol is quite content to be wrestling in Japan. There are times, however, when he longs for his native country. He'll return if he feels he is really wanted.

moves with more assurance, and exhibits a new speed. He claims to be wrestling better than ever. His record of many tough wins tends to bear this out.

At the same time, Idol appears to have lost a certain edge. Describing what is missing is almost impossible, equal to describing red to a blind man. At the same time, a sighted man knows exactly what is meant by red. Seeing Idol would enable any of his fans to understand the difference. Some inner fire appears to be burning low.

Despite this, or perhaps because of this, Idol seems

happier than ever. As of now, he has no plans to return to the United States. Yet, he admits there is something that could bring him back.

Late one night, sitting in the arena after everyone else had left, Idol stared at a sign written in Japanese. He couldn't read it. It was a reminder that he was a foreigner in a strange land.

"These are wonderful people," he mused, "but they aren't my people. I have a bond with the people of Georgia that nothing can break. We are part of each other. I know as long as I stay away, I'll always be searching for something I've left behind. And I'll always know

where to find it.

"As much as I love it here, if the Georgia fans begged me to come home, I guess I'd go. Something would make me head home. Don't get me wrong, though. A couple of fans thinking it might be nice to see me wouldn't get me back. I mean, a whole slew of fans would have to beg me to come back.

"Even with the fans support, it

wouldn't be easy for me back in the United States. I'd rather not explain why it would be so tough, but it would be. I'll go so far as to say the fan support might be one of the difficulties.

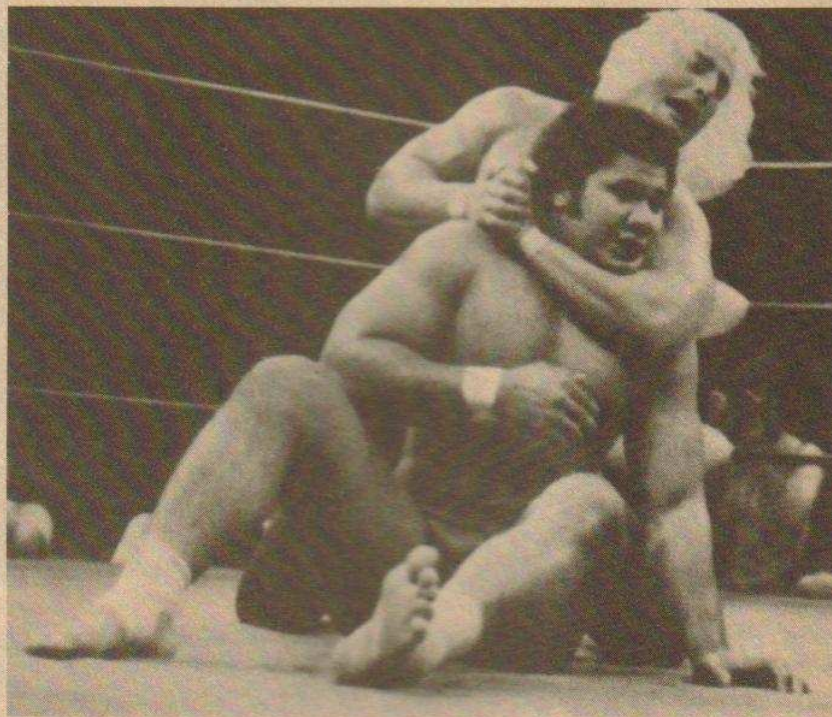
"Still, I'd walk through a wall for those people. I'd risk my career, my reputation, even my life. As much as I love them, I wouldn't do that for the Japanese. The Georgia fans have me by the senses beyond

my mind's control. I guess if they needed me, I'd come running.

"Y'know, there's something about late at night, when everyone else is gone, when you can feel really lost in Tokyo. I guess it's because it's so hard to speak to strangers. I have no common bond. You don't realize how important something like that can be until it's gone.



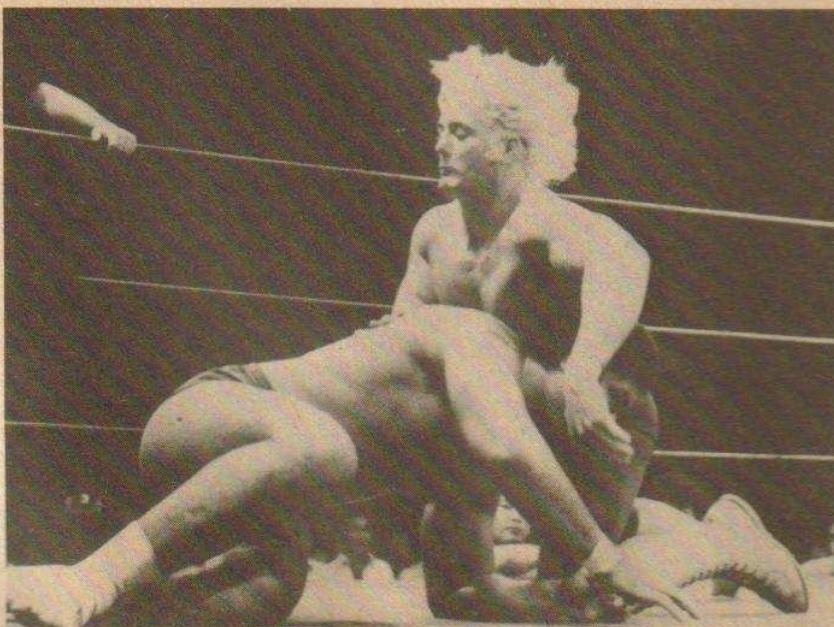
Baba lifts Idol in the air and brings him crashing down across his knee. Though he resides in a faraway land, Idol has found that the violence within the squared circle is universal.



Idol has quite a bit of success throughout Japan (above and left). He loves the country and he loves the people, yet he still knows he must one day return to his own land.

Austin took a slow walk outside the arena. This time, his stride betrayed a man with no real place to go. He was visiting. Sooner or later, the visit would have to end. He'd have to return home.

Only Austin Idol knows why he left. Only Austin Idol knows when it'll be time to return. That time will come when Idol hears the fans begging him to once again be their hero. On lonely nights, Austin Idol listens very hard. □



THE 500-POUND CHALLENGE



VERNE GAGNE TOOK TOO LIGHTLY

THAT VERNE GAGNE, a man of immense experience, should take a ferocious challenger like Crusher Blackwell too lightly is shocking.

"I blew it," admitted Gagne afterwards.

Why would Verne Gagne underestimate Blackwell?

"I thought he was just another slob," said the AWA champion.

That inaccurate assessment follows Blackwell around. Many people think Blackwell can simply be written off as a talentless super-heavyweight. But that isn't so. If anything, this brutal Gagne-Blackwell bout in Omaha,

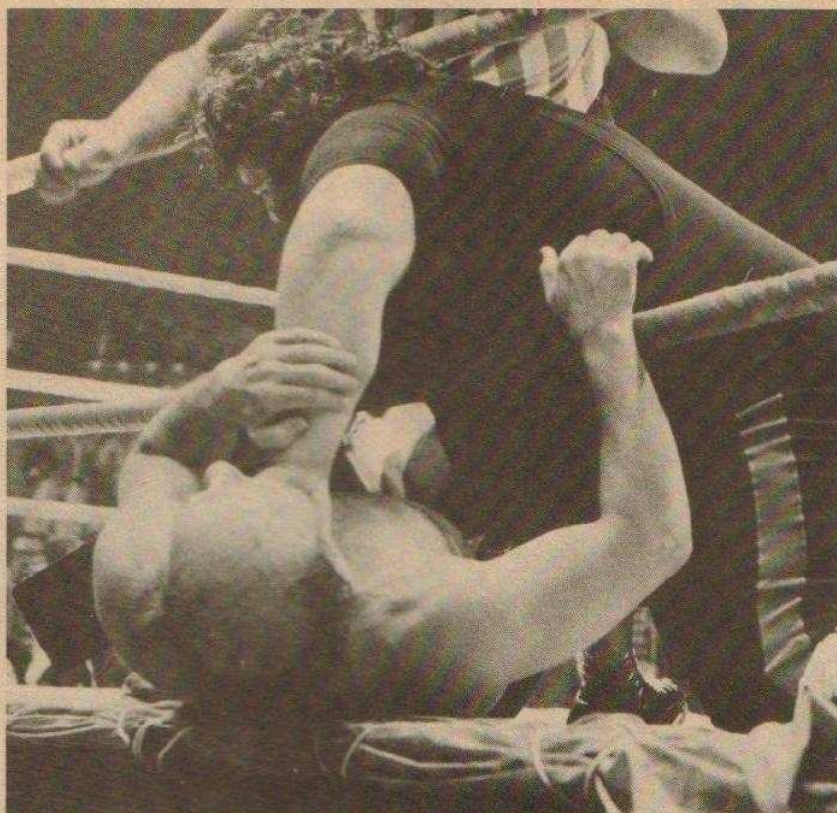
Nebraska, demonstrated once and for all that Crusher Blackwell is one of the top wrestlers in the game today.

Blackwell is a man of enormous versatility. For one carrying so much weight, his foot speed is astonishing.

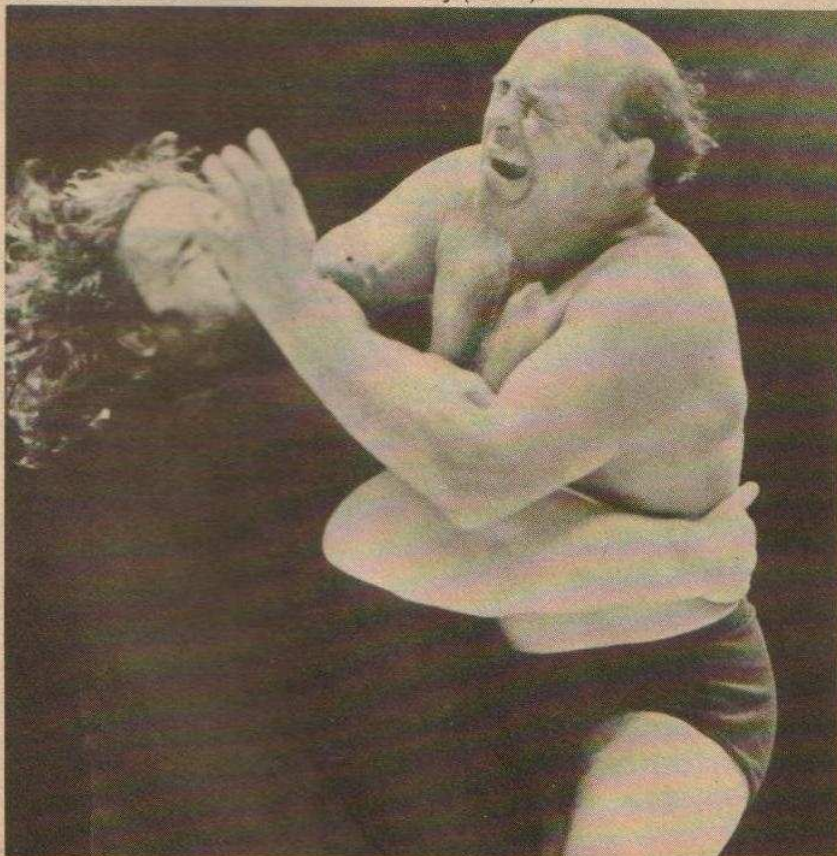
"I practiced with my feet back

So AWA champion Verne Gagne thought Crusher Blackwell was just another tubby opponent, did he? That error in judgement nearly cost Gagne his title. And it certainly solidified Blackwell among the top ranks of AWA contenders. Even Gagne admits that

PHOTOS BY BOB RUIZ



Despite the referee's efforts to maintain order, it is very difficult to stop Crusher Blackwell once he gets his momentum going. Crusher chokes Gagne as the AWA champion lies under the ropes (above). Gagne desperately resists the urge to submit as Blackwell crushes the air out of his body (below).



home in Stone Mountain, Georgia," recalled Blackwell. "When I was a youngster, my daddy always made me wake up real early and feed the hogs. Well now, feedin' hogs at five in the mornin' can be a real tricky kinda proposition.

"I was always slippin' and slidin' and fallin' among them nasty hogs. You ain't never seen anythin' nastier than a hog who just got sat on. So to save my skin, I started practicin' my agility. It got so I could slide and skim right through that hogpen, feedin' them hogs without one of 'em ever gettin' close enough to smell me."

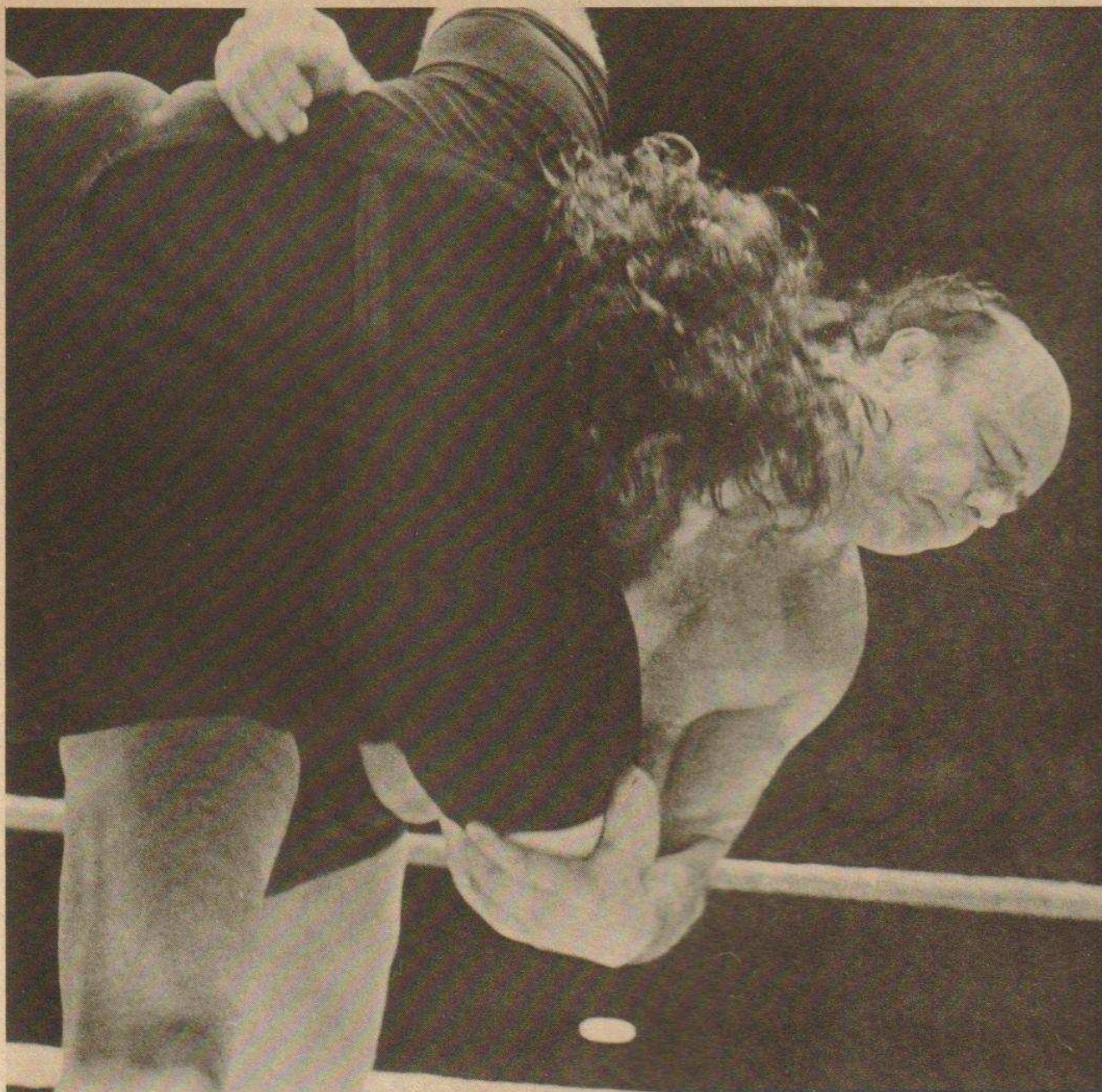
That accounts for Blackwell's surprising speed. But it might be Blackwell's girth which confounds his foes. Many, like Gagne, look at him and think he is, as Baron Von Raschke says, "500 pounds of raw bratwurst." But as Von Raschke and Gagne and others have learned, Blackwell's girth is laden with muscles.

"Well, I gotta method of exercisin' while I'm eatin' that makes me strong and keeps my belly from turnin' into fat," said Blackwell, lifting up a Minnesota Vikings T-shirt and displaying his ample waist. "See, this here ain't just plain fat," Blackwell pounded his stomach, "but this here is muscular fat. Now there's a difference.

"Say you're just out-and-out fat. Well, that could mean you're flabby and if you got punched there, you're gonna have all your wind knocked clear into the next county. But this here is muscular fat and if someone hits me, they're gonna lose some fingers," said Blackwell.

With both surprise and a trace of admiration, Gagne acknowledges Blackwell's physical skills.

"Let me tell you something about that guy," said Gagne. "First time I ever saw him, I thought he was just a tub of lard. I thought he was nothing. But after this match,



The veins in Gagne's head pop as he flings his 500-pound opponent through the air. While Verne admits he underestimated Blackwell, he has no praise for a man whose sole intention is to maim his opponent.

well, he convinced me he's got something underneath that shirt.

"When Blackwell gets you in a bearhug, it's a lot like having every cell in your body squeezed out of you through every pore in your skin. You just hurt real bad. Now I've been in some really rough bearhugs before, but when he wraps those huge arms around you, you're sure you're about ready to pass out."

Gagne rubbed his ribs and

grinned sheepishly.

"Now, before all you writers dash off and say how Gagne's proclaiming Blackwell as a great wrestler, let me just continue on in this vein," Gagne said. "There's a lot more to this sport than what Blackwell tries to do in the ring. He's content to bully people around. He thinks he can just throw his weight around and that'll be sufficient.

"Well, wrestling is a scientific,

exquisitely timed sport. You need more than just size. You need to devote hours in the gym working on your maneuvers. I think Blackwell hasn't come to that understanding quite yet. Besides, he's one mean guy. I mean, he's just plain mean. Yes, I'll admit I underestimated him. But I won't throw any flowers around his neck.

Gagne rubbed his ribs and, shaking his head, disappeared into the showers. □

THE VALENTINE-BRAVO FEUD ERUPTS AGAIN

PHOTOS BY BRAD McFARLIN



GREG VALENTINE and Dino Bravo have pursued each other across the country. Actually, Valentine has done much of the chasing. But Bravo, once found, has stood his ground and battled the blond demon.

When both were in the Mid-Atlantic area, their feud took on all

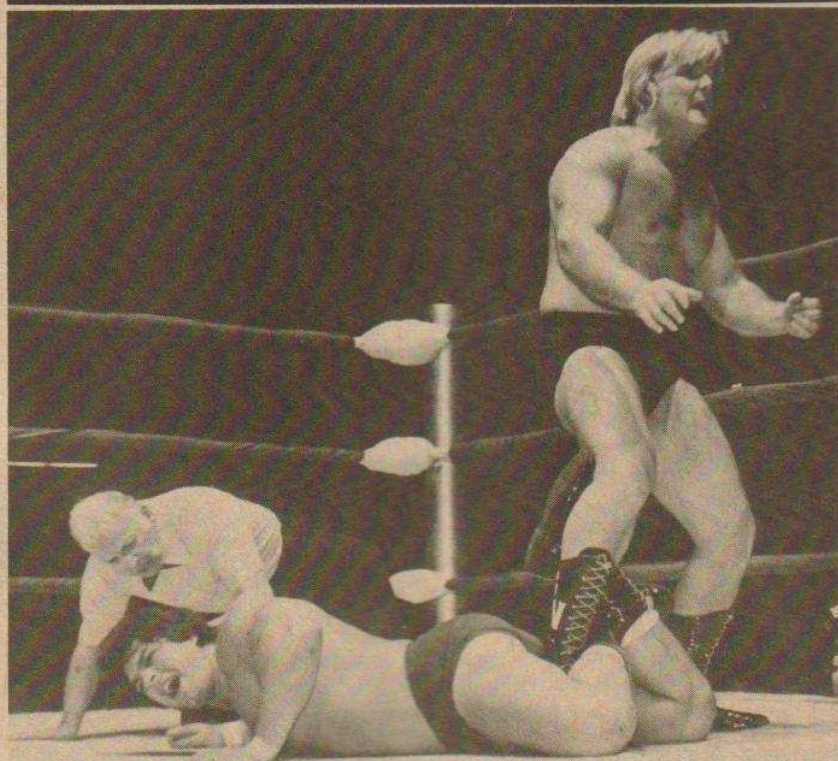
the proportions of total war. Nightly, they battered each other, often stumbling from the ring as bloodied, dazed warriors.

When Bravo was in New York, Valentine tried to make arrangements to wrestle him there. But he got there just a little too late.

"I think I was stalled," said Valentine. "I think Bravo tried to delay my application so he could get out of the area before I got there and blasted his brains into a million and a half little pieces."

Bravo moved to the AWA. Valentine, learning of Bravo's new battleground, acted to enter

Just when it seemed so safe to venture forth, the feud has exploded. Greg Valentine and Dino Bravo are at it again. With every ounce of strength and fury, these two talented wrestlers have launched all-out war. There can be no survivors of this feud



There is no love lost between these two warriors. They have battled from one end of the country to the other. Valentine locks Bravo in a standing toe-hold. From that position he will fall back, inflicting a great deal of pain. "No pain is too much for that bum," Valentine insists.

"Yeah, I wanted him real bad. So I thought I'd go up to the AWA and wallop him around and finish the creep off once and for all. But my application was denied. I kept callin' to find out what happened. But I knew Bravo was too afraid to let me get in. He didn't want to meet me, that's why he runs around the country tryin' to escape. But I'll get him, you'll see."

One call to the AWA offices disclosed Valentine had never made an application.

"You expect them to admit they denied me 'cause Bravo was afraid?" sneered Valentine.

Finally, Valentine located Bravo. In Detroit. The Motor City.

Bravo was scheduled to wrestle there and Valentine vowed to move mountains to get that opportunity, just one shot at Bravo.

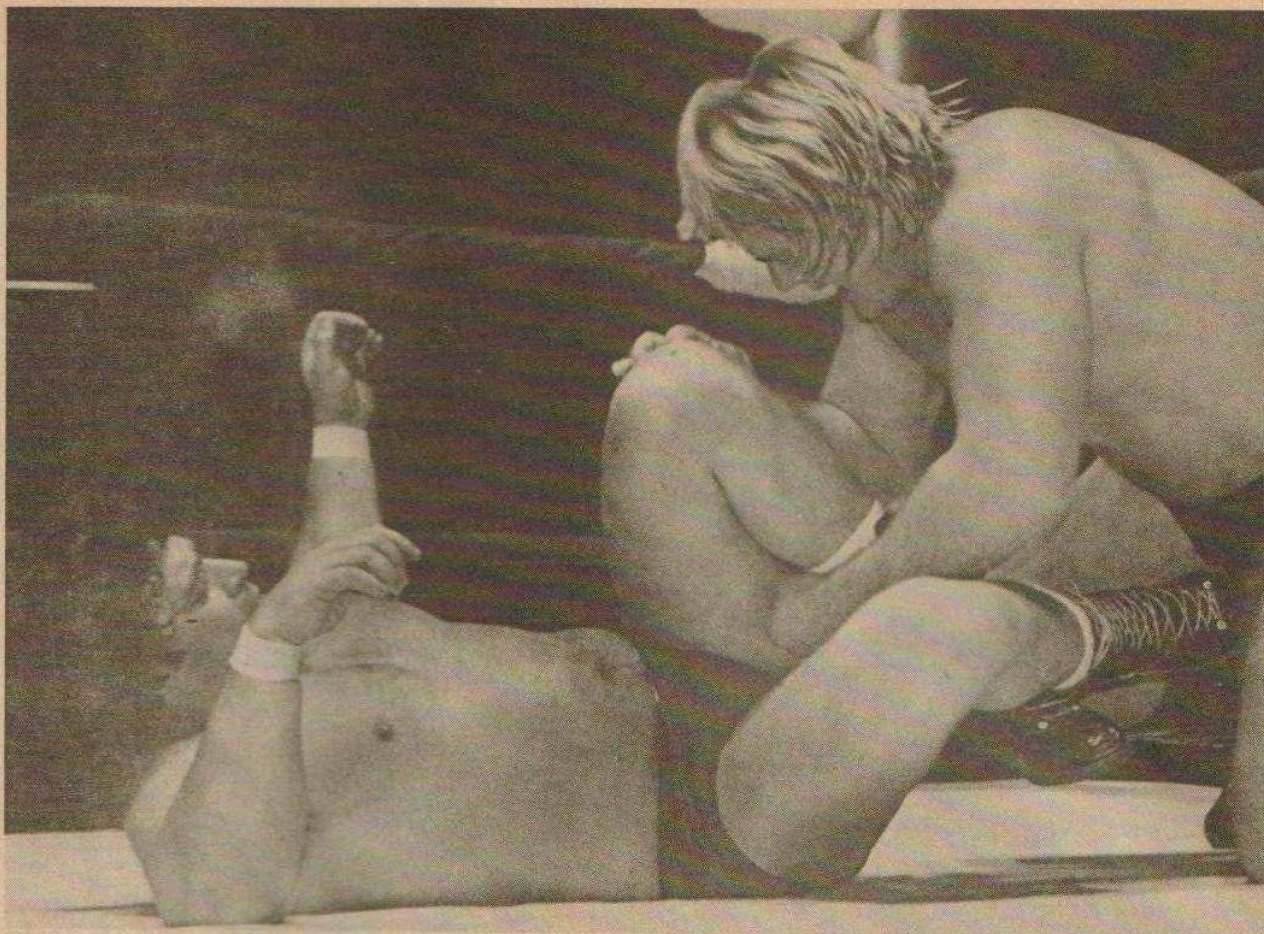
"Man, I hadda pull strings, hadda talk to all them bums I hate who make my skin crawl," said Valentine. "But I'd do anything to get that Bravo. Anything at all. I just wanna pay him back."

For his part, Bravo remains amused by Valentine's relentless pursuit.

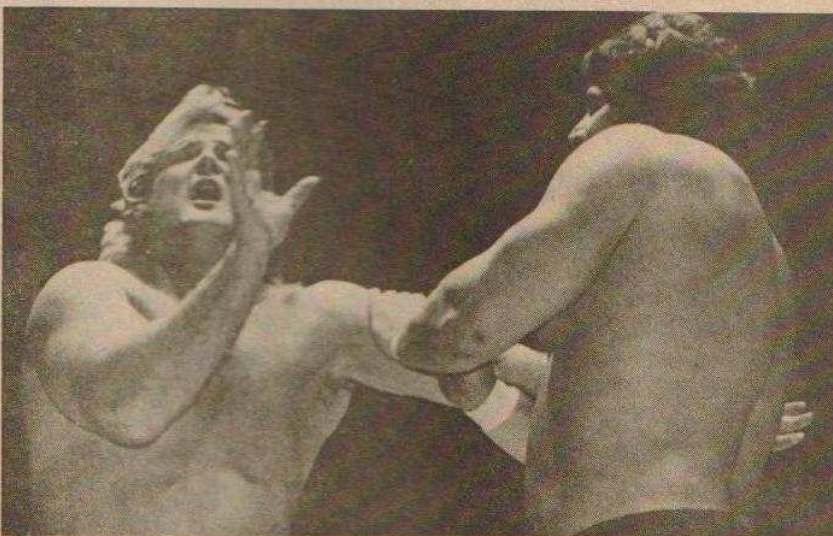
"Hey, think I'd ever be afraid of someone like Greg Valentine?" asked Bravo, grinning. "He's nothing but an animal, a little doggie. I could care less if he walks one step behind me when I go out

the arena.

"I tried, man, did I try," said Valentine. "I wanted his head between my hands and the feel of his blood slidin' down my arms, yeah, I wanted that guy," said Valentine. "I dreamed of steppin' on his face and feelin' his nose squashed and gooey under my heel.



The battle raged back and forth, with neither combatant able to maintain a clear-cut advantage. As is his style, Valentine works on Bravo's legs (above). Dino comes back and forces Valentine to beg for mercy (below).



for a stroll. I'm not afraid of him. In fact, I welcome him coming into Detroit for this one match. I want to put out his lights.

"To me, Valentine is the worst, most sadistic man who ever

wrestled. He hasn't one iota of decency in his body. All he lives for is to hurt. All he wants out of life is to hurt people.

"That's why I wanted him here in Detroit. I wanted him to come in

here. I wanted him all angry and mean and thinking he had a chance to walk out of this ring. That's exactly where I wanted him.

"Once Valentine crawls through those ropes, he's a dead man. He's gonna be carried from the ring. I've had it with him. I'm fed up with his violence. He thinks he's so tough well, he's gonna learn a painful lesson this night."

Their match was, not surprisingly, brutal. Unbelievably brutal. In a town with as rich a wrestling tradition as Detroit, the ferocity and intensity and brutality of this match shocked even the calmest of fans.

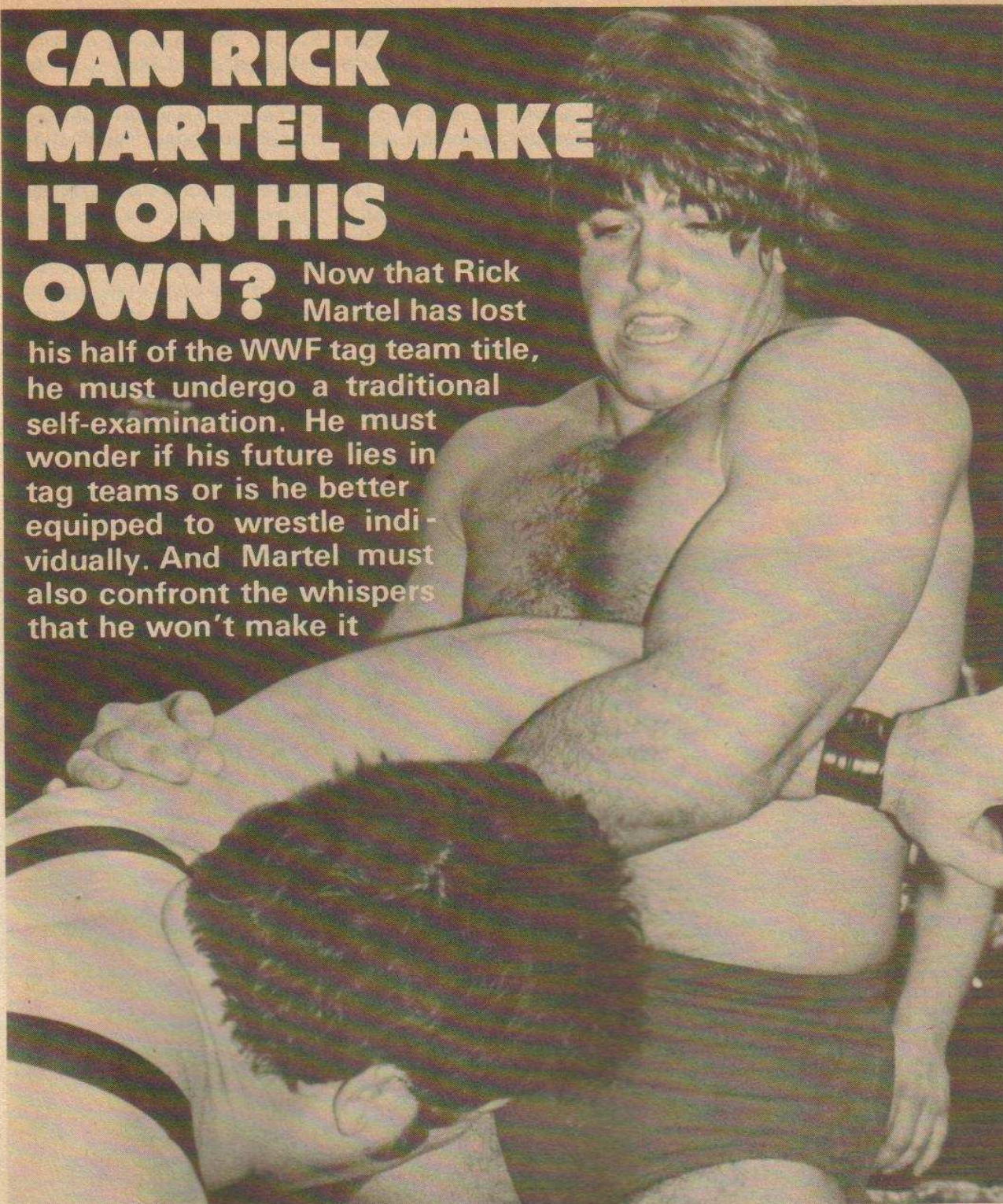
Unfortunately, the match didn't stop the feud.

"He cheated and survived," said Bravo. "Next time maybe I'll go looking for *him*."

"Bravo has a price on his head. He better make out his will and pick out a coffin," vowed Valentine. □

CAN RICK MARTEL MAKE IT ON HIS OWN?

Now that Rick Martel has lost his half of the WWF tag team title, he must undergo a traditional self-examination. He must wonder if his future lies in tag teams or is he better equipped to wrestle individually. And Martel must also confront the whispers that he won't make it



FOR RICK MARTEL, this has been the most painful period in his young life.

"I've agonized for a long time over this," said Martel. "I've tried to figure out what to do. I can't imagine any decision ever being this painful or this tough.

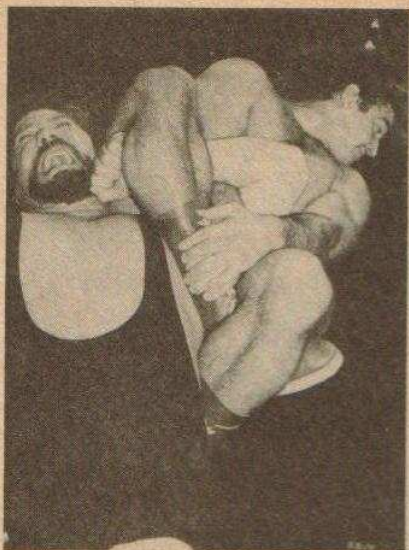
And to be honest, while I've made a decision, it's still tentative."

For several months, Martel and Tony Garea reigned as WWF tag team champions after defeating Afa and Sika, The Samoans. In contrast to the

barbarism of The Samoans, Martel and Garea comported themselves with grace and dignity. And Martel electrified audiences, especially females, with his maneuvers.

"Nothing like being champion," said Martel.

PHOTOS BY BILL APTER & STU SAKS



Martel displays incredible maneuverability as he wraps himself around The Hangman's arm, shifts his weight, and flips him to the canvas.

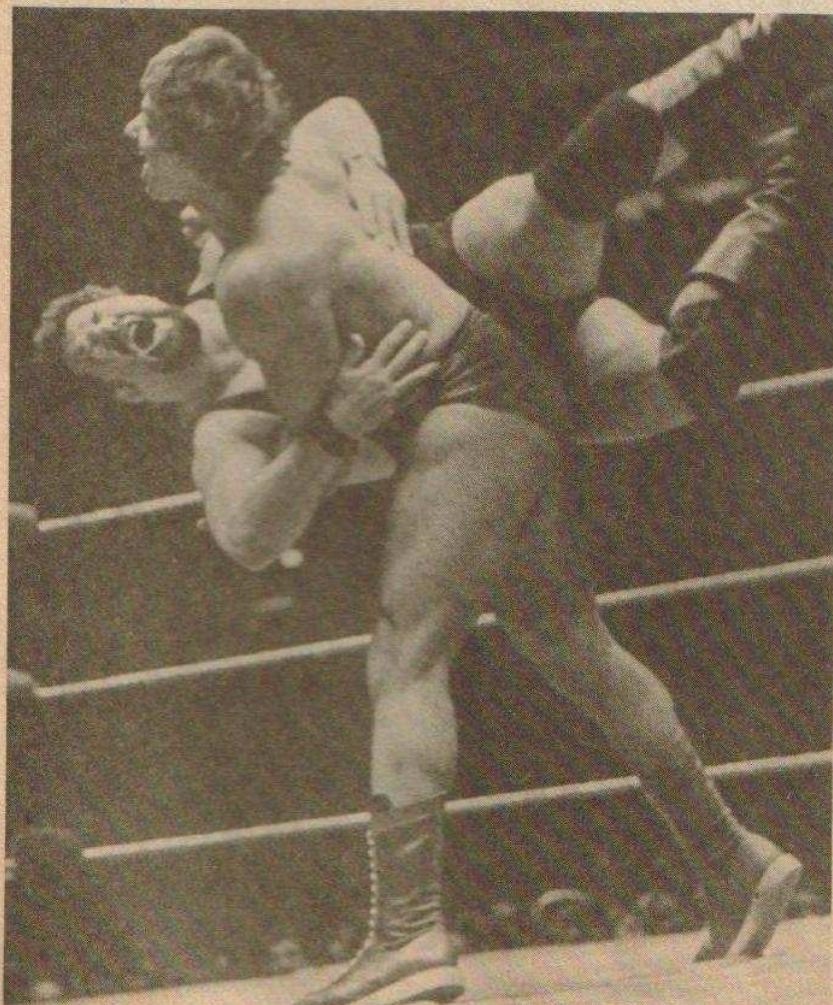
But nothing lasts forever. Recently The Moondogs, Rex and King, gained the WWF title for their manager, Captain Lou Albano. Suddenly, Martel was no longer a champion. And it hurt.

"The first morning I woke up, I guess that's when it really, really hit me," Rick said. "That night we lost, both of us were still in something of a daze. You just can't believe it's all over like that, you're title's gone, that's it."

"So I could brood about it or look to do something about it. Me and Tony had a lotta long talks about what we should do. That's when I first raised the question to Tony. Fortunately, he was real supportive.

"I asked Tony how he'd feel if I started taking more individual matches," said Martel, his face twisting in pain. "He said if that's what I wanted to do, by all means, go ahead. He told me he thought I had the talent to be a champion. Tony said he believed in me and that, if I decided we should really dissolve the tag team, he'd always be my friend, there'd be absolutely no hard feelings, nothing at all like that. Boy, that was a relief. Then the hard part came. Should I do it? Or should I try to do both? And am I good enough to wrestle individually?"

Martel contacted WWF officials and requested they match him up with more



The Hangman braces himself for a heavy fall as Martel hiprolls him to the mat (above). Rick (wristlocking The Hangman, right) has been making a smooth transition to wrestling on his own after spending several successful months as Tony Garea's tag team partner.

Martel applies pressure to The Hangman's left wrist.



individual bouts. The Hangman was one of the first.

"It was really strange going into the ring by yourself after being used to wrestling with a partner all these months," recalled Martel. "You start looking around for your partner and then you catch yourself, realizing you're all alone."

"Heck, I was nervous. I was real nervous before that match against The Hangman. But I told myself I'd have to find out if I could do it. I had to know if I was good enough. I never wanted to look back and say I should have done it when it's too late to do anything anymore."

"It was difficult, but I wanted to give myself the chance."

Garea firmly believes Martel has outstanding individual talent.

"Know why Rick's so good?" asked Garea. "Because he's tough. He never quits. He'll keep charging forward time after time. He's reliable and he's gutsy and he's an incredibly talented young guy. I told him all that. I told him he's gonna be champion of the world someday."

Another great WWF wrestler echoed Garea's remarks.

"You know, I look at that Rick Martel and say to myself, Bruno, this kid has got it all," said Bruno Sammartino, two-time WWF champion. "I know he's gonna make it real big. He'll get used to

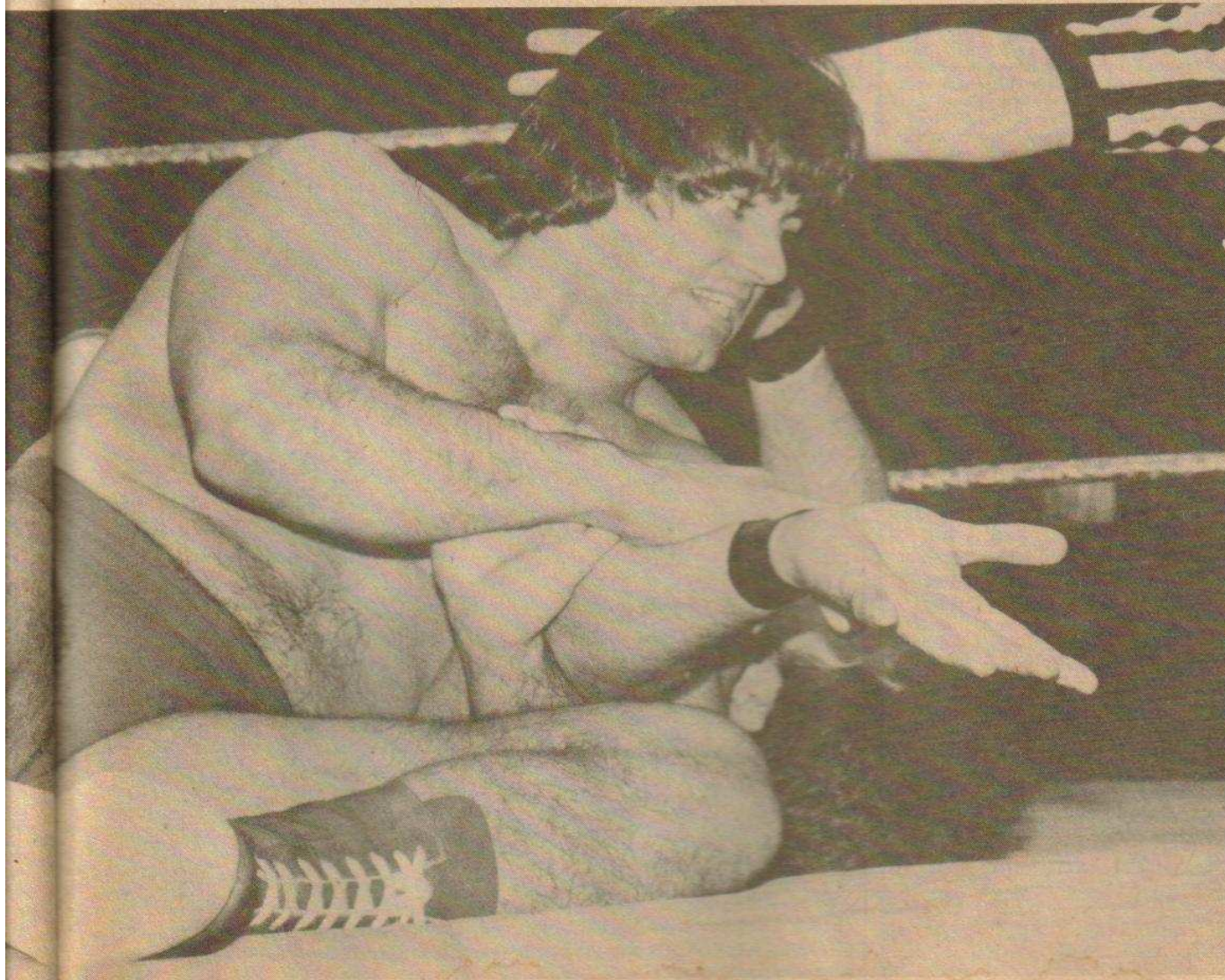
wrestling alone. He can do it. He just has to know that some nights it'll be tough and he must know that's part of the price you pay to make it big."

Still, Martel is wrestling with Garea. Recently they teamed in Madison Square Garden against Larry Sharpe and Johnny Rodz.

"Just because I'm moving more out on my own doesn't mean for a second I can't still wrestle with Tony," said Martel.

"I think I should try and be as well-rounded as possible. And the more I think about this, the more I think I'm gonna make it."

"You just have to want it badly enough," said Martel. "And I want to make it on my own. Real bad." □



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**WHAT'S
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(Continued from Page 8)

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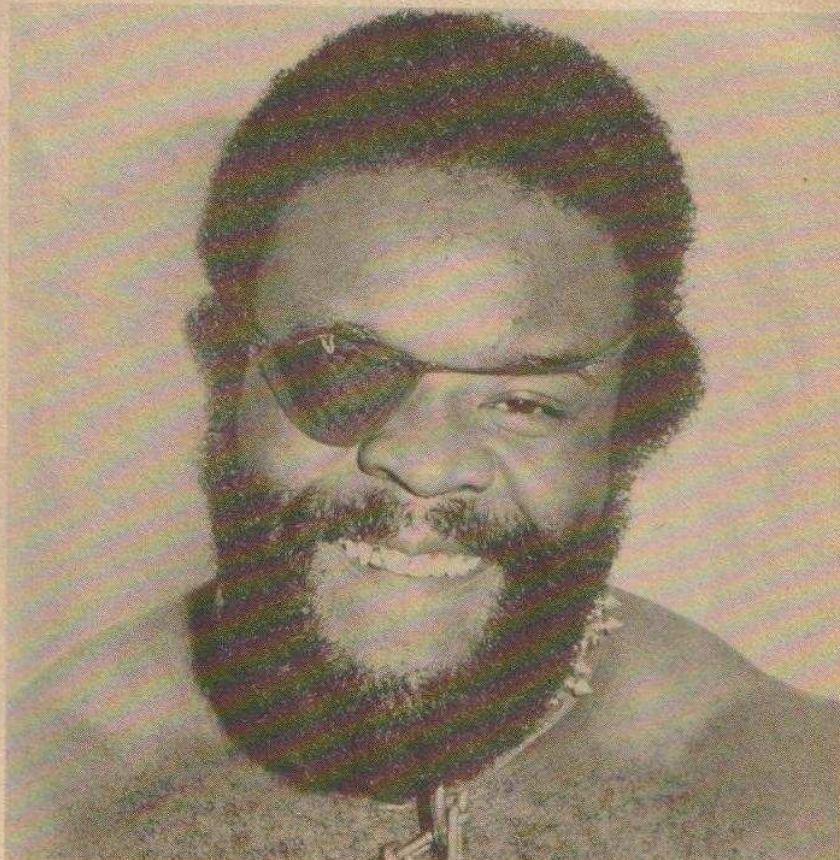
Dusty Rhodes wrestled Harley Race for the NWA title in Miami for the first time in eight months. After a collision, both men collapsed on the mat and special referee Reggie Parks counted them out. Dusty contends he was just about to get up when the "10" count was rendered.

Junkyard Dog's right eye was reinjured, this time with hair cream. And once again it was The Freebirds who were responsible. As you remember, that team inflicted Junkyard's temporary blindness several months ago.

Hospital reports show that Ted DiBiase has just about fully recovered from his injuries caused by The Freebirds. He will probably be back by the time you're reading

this, doubtlessly seeking revenge . . . Super Destroyer has won the Mississippi title from Don Diamond . . . Frank Dusek is now managing Super Destroyer and Masked Grappler . . . Rumors persist that Mike Graham is the masked "Port Tampa Terror" . . . Kabuki is headed to Louisiana where he hopes to win the state belt from Jim Garvin . . . Jim Valiant and Austin Idol are negotiating with Mid-Atlantic promoters . . . Bruno Sammartino Jr. is wrestling in Pittsburgh once again after a very successful tour of the Mid-Atlantic region.

Kevin Sullivan is in Memphis, Tennessee, and the fans admit they have not seen such an aggressive ruffian like him in quite some time . . . Gino Hernandez says that



Junkyard Dog finds it within himself to smile despite the pain he is suffering. He won't be smiling when he gets into the ring against The Freebirds, however. Once again, Dog seeks revenge.

Chavo Guerrero "should be one of the Von Erich family. He wrestles just as lousy as they do," quipped Gino . . . WWF champion Bob Backlund is readying himself for a challenge from The Grand Wizard's latest charge, Magnificent Muraco.

When Jerry Lawler boasted on Memphis television that he would wrestle his hated foe Terry Funk, anytime, any place or anywhere, he probably didn't think Funk would take him up on it. Well, the following week on television Funk handed announcer Lance Russell an envelope that was to be given to



Terry Funk anxiously awaits Jerry Lawler's appearance in the ring. But where are all the fans?

Lawler. It was to state the place and time he would meet Lawler in a fight to the finish—with no audience included.

The brawl took place in the Memphis auditorium with only four people present. Editor-in-Chief Peter King, a television crew, and Memphis photographer Robert Reed.

The match was absolutely brutal. The two almost killed one another. After Funk tried to take Jerry's eye out with a weapon, Lawler turned the tables and injured Funk's eye. We'll have complete details in an upcoming edition.

That's all for now. See you next time! ☐

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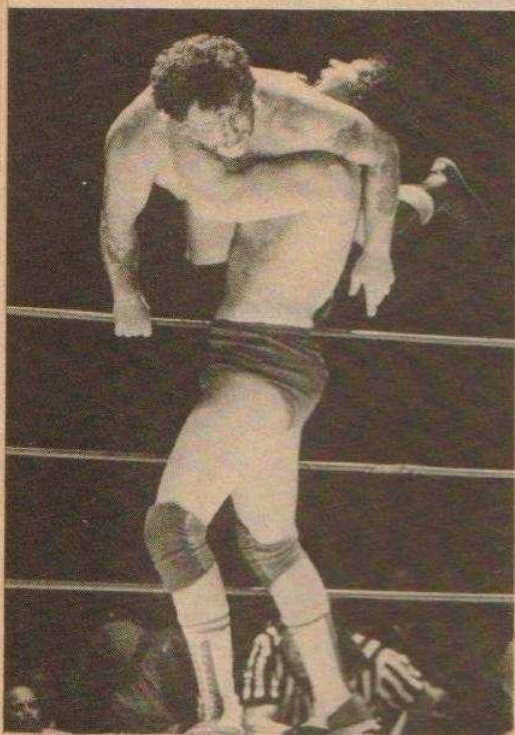
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TED DiBIASE

(Continued from Page 33)



that's all. And if Race did hurl himself over the top rope, what real difference does it make? It won't help me in any way.

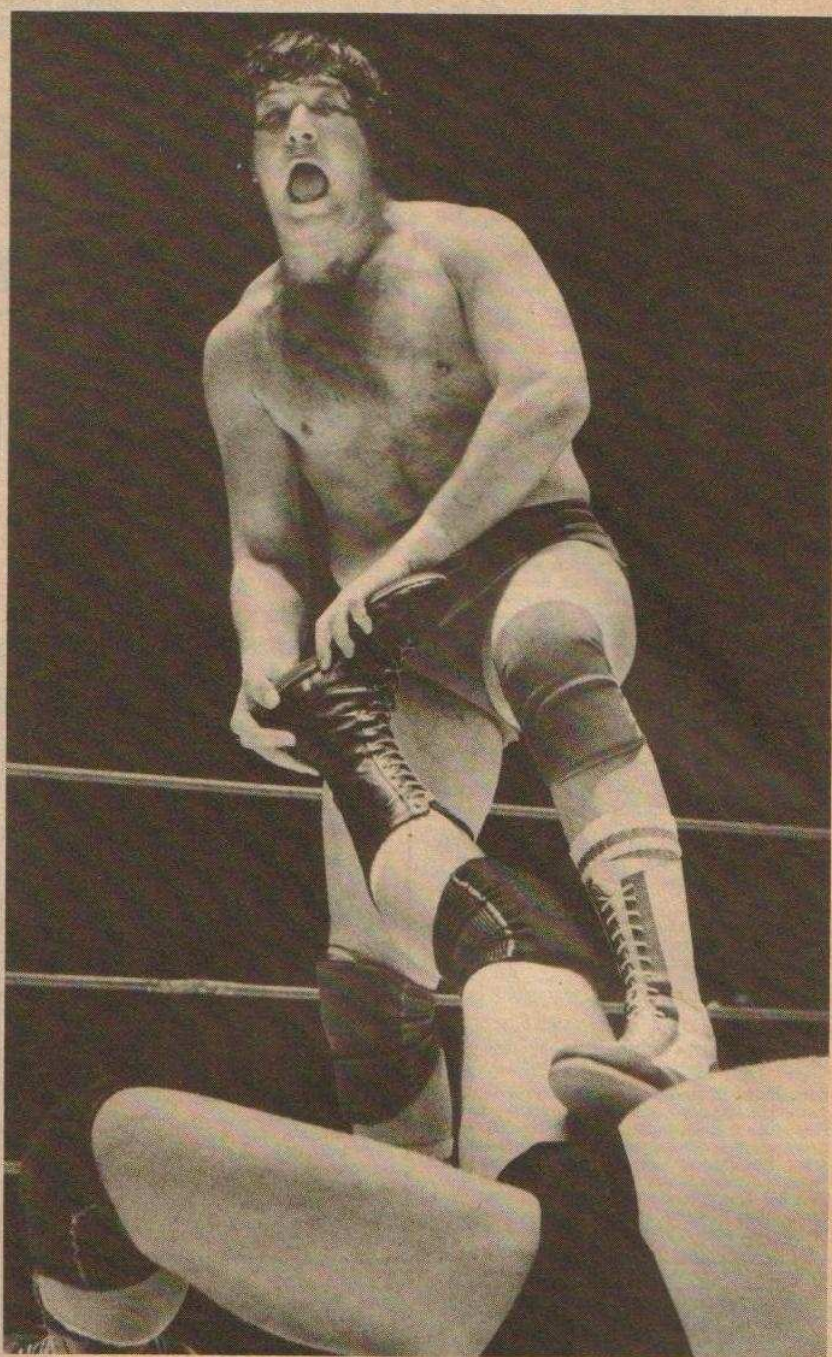
"I just have to learn from this mistake and never let it happen again," said DiBiase.

Avoiding the mistake of backdropping Race over the top rope in future matches isn't all DiBiase must avoid. He must be very, very careful not to allow this incident to rob him of any of his aggressiveness.

"Yeah, I'm aware of that," said DiBiase. "I know the inclination will be not to do that again and maybe I'll hold back for fear that I will. But I think I've got a handle on all this. I know that one doesn't necessarily have anything to do with the other.

"I know I can still go all-out and wrestle in my usual aggressive style without worrying about that last match. I just have to somehow blank it out of my mind, that's all.

"From the opening bell, I'm gonna be as aggressive as ever. I'm



After such a freak disqualification, often a wrestler loses some of his aggressiveness the next time around. Ted does not feel this will happen to him. He is determined to take Race's championship. The referee is temporarily knocked out of the ring (top left) as Ted lifts the champion off his feet. DiBiase works on the champion's leg (above).

gonna wrestle and use all my know-how and strengths to overwhelm him. I'm going to burn rubber and wrestle at 1,000 percent capacity. I'm not going to hold back anything.

"I know that Race has a lotta tricks up his sleeve. I know he'll try and find some way to keep his title. But this time, world, this time he's gonna have to beat me. I'm not gonna beat myself." □

BOBBY EATON

(Continued from Page 25)

into pro wrestling, he took a job putting up rings for promoter Nick Gulas. That job got Eaton close to some of the wrestlers, in particular, Tojo Yamamoto.

"We used to work out together," recalled Eaton. "He really taught me a lot and helped me turn pro. I'm forever grateful."

Eaton has concentrated on three areas: Georgia, Memphis, and Nashville.

"I love wrestling there, but I do wish they wouldn't let fans in," said Eaton. "Can't stand those idiots always yelling out. Who needs the fans, anyway? All they do is cause trouble and give grief to great men like me."

Eaton has already captured a major title, the Mid-American title in Nashville.

"That was a great, great feeling for me," said Eaton. "Nothing like being champion. You're a hundred feet high and you know you're invincible. Only difference between me and other champions is I know I'm invincible."

"Yeah, when I enter that ring I know I'm the greatest who ever lived," said Eaton, 22. "I know I can whip any man stupid enough to get in my way. I know I can crush and destroy and smash the skull of any man alive."

"I know the feeling of greatness. I have the power of greatness. Nothing can ever stop me from attaining my goals."

A man who should know talent offers an interesting analysis of Eaton.

"When I wrestled that kid in Atlanta, he gave me some anxious moments," said Mr. Wrestling II. "I tell you, he's got the fire of a Dick Slater and the determination of a Terry Funk. He's gonna be some kinda wrestler before he hangs up the boots. I'd remember that name. He'll be around a long, long time."

Bobby Eaton, rulebreaker on the rise.

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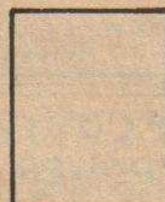
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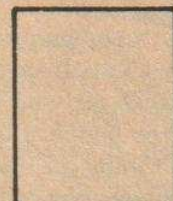
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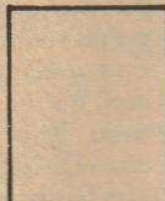
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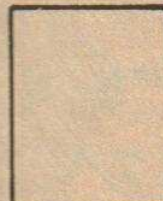
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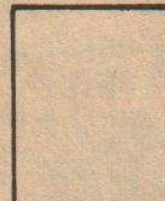
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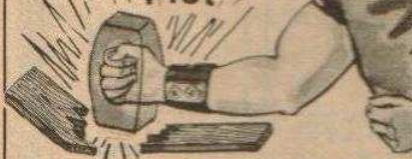
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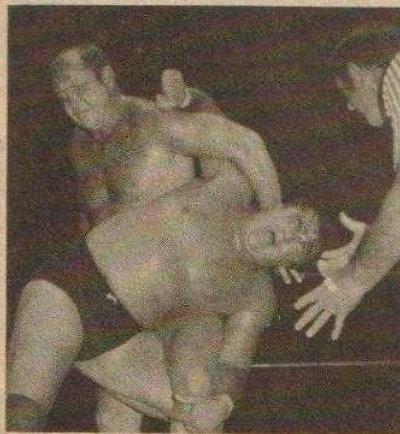
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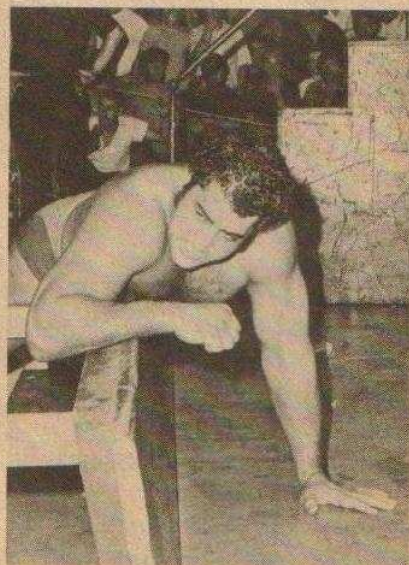
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In other matches, with Michael Hayes interfering on their behalf, Freebirds Buddy Roberts and Terry Gordy upended Dick Slater and Tony Atlas . . . Andre the Giant and Dusty Rhodes demolished Ole and Gene Anderson . . . Ted DiBiase defeated Steve Keirn . . . Ted Oates upset Bobby Eaton.



Gene Anderson pulls Andre the Giant's hair, but he and brother Ole did not have enough to defeat Andre and Dusty Rhodes.

PHILADELPHIA, PA—Correspondent: Neil Sheny—Stan Hansen took on Intercontinental champion Pedro Morales in an uncontrollable melee. As soon as the bell rang, Hansen swarmed over Morales. After a few minutes, Morales came fighting back and the action turned into a wild brawl.



Intercontinental champion Pedro Morales and his challenger, Stan Hansen, were both counted out of the ring in Philadelphia.

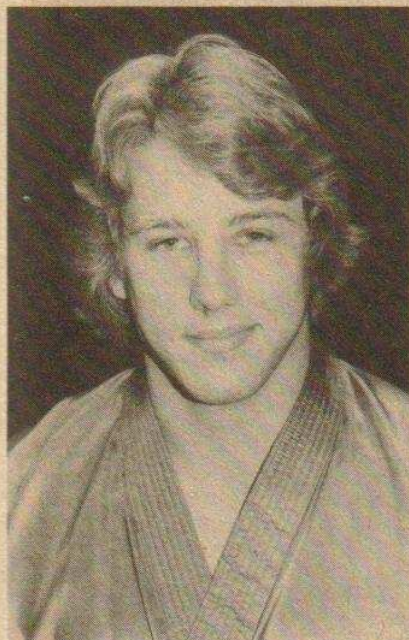
Wahoo McDaniel withstands the pain of Dory Funk Jr.'s abdominal stretch long enough to find an escape. Wahoo and Ivan Putski beat Funk and Larry Lane.

SAN ANTONIO, TX—Correspondent: Raymond Sanchez—The main event featured the devious brother combination of Terry and Dory Funk Jr. against Chief Wahoo McDaniel and Ivan Putski. Before the match, Funk's cousin Larry Lane replaced injured Terry. Using a foreign object given them by Terry, Dory and Lane held an early advantage. But McDaniel grew incensed at Terry's interference and chased him around the ring. Dory came up from behind and tried to bodyslam him, but McDaniel reversed the move and he and Putski captured the win.

In other bouts, Billy Robinson defeated Tank Patton . . . Gino Hernandez won by disqualification over Chavo Guerrero . . . Tiger Conway Jr. stopped Black Gordman . . . Eddy Mansfield defeated Scott Casey.

Both men crashed through the ropes and fought outside the ring. Soon the referee, unable to get them back into the ring, ordered a double-disqualification.

In other matches, The Hangman stopped Johnny Rodz . . . Killer Khan crushed Rick McGraw . . . S.D. Jones got past Baron Scicluna . . . Hulk Hogan smeared Dominic DeNucci.



Tom Pritchard shocked some fans when he defeated The Assassin in a brutal Pole Match.

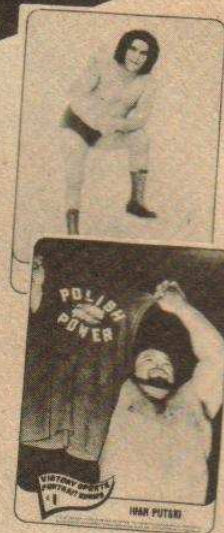
LOS ANGELES, CA—Correspondent: Mark Gallo—The main event was a \$1,000 pole match pitting The Assassin against Tom Pritchard. Obviously more than money was at stake here as both men went right for each other's throats. The Assassin really gave it to Pritchard. Soon The Assassin started crawling up the pole to snatch the check on the top. But Pritchard seized Assassin, pulled him back down, bodyslammed him, and dashed up the pole to win the \$1,000 prize.

In other matches, Great Goliath beat Chico Flores . . . Mike Masters whipped Tony Rodriguez . . . Al Madril, Tom Pritchard, and Chico Flores beat John Tolos, Ox Baker, and Great Goliath. ☐

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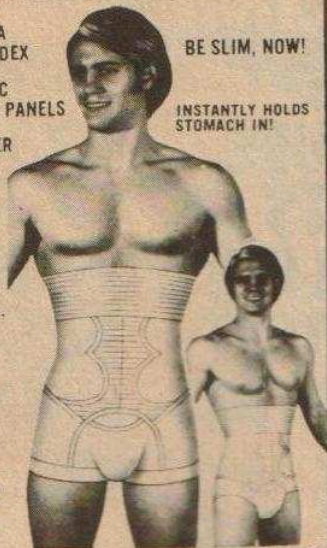
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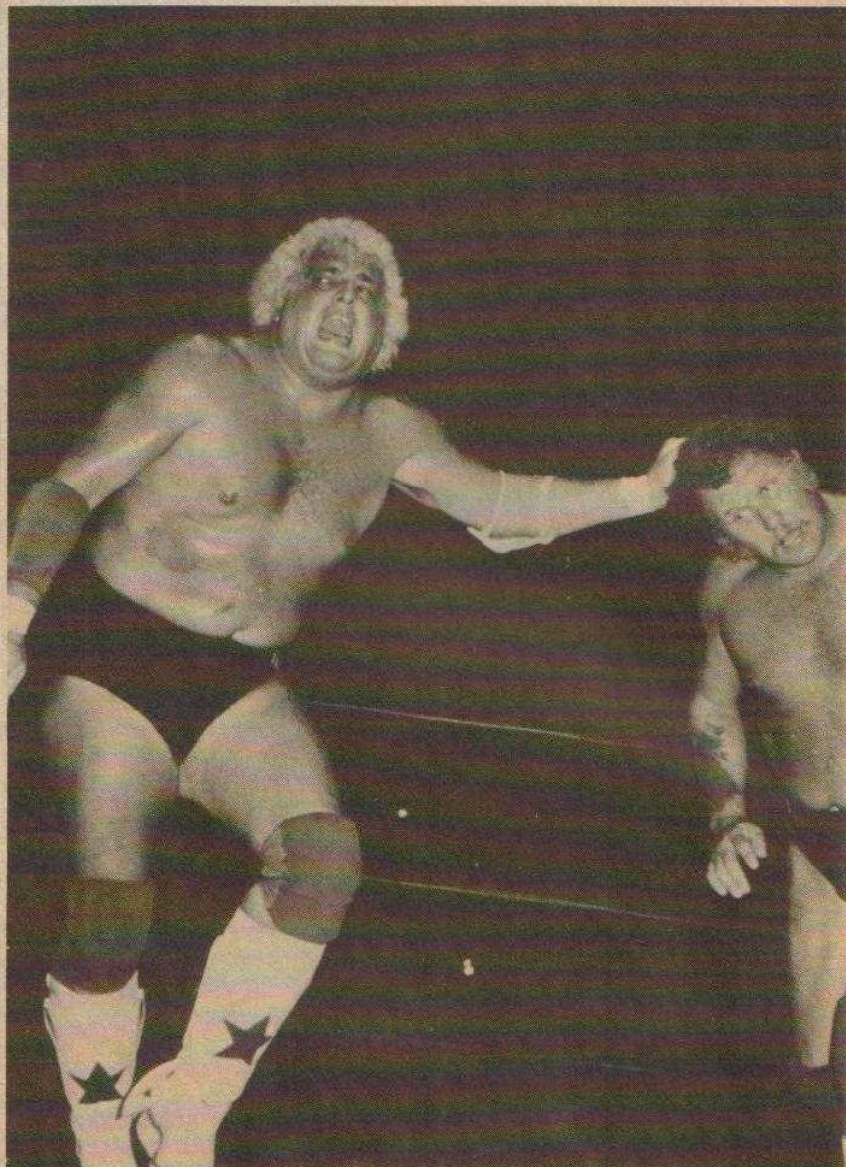
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Dusty Rhodes has difficulty deciding whom he hates more when it comes to a choice between Harley Race and Sir Oliver Humperdink. "I hate both of 'em so damn much but for such different reasons," he says. Above, Dusty grabs Race's chair and flings him across the ring.

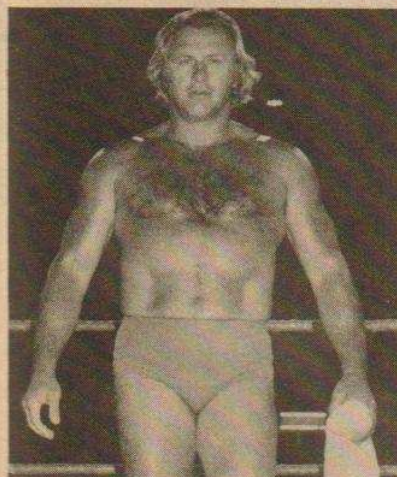
toward winning the U.S. title demonstrates his skills. But I do not think he is as good as he wants everyone to think. If Piper were that good, he wouldn't have to keep shooting off his mouth all the time. A man who is good allows his accomplishments to speak for him. A man who worries whether he is good makes his mouth do the achieving."

Q: "Who does Dusty Rhodes consider his biggest enemy, Harley Race or Sir Oliver Humperdink?"—Neal Ruman-ski, Orlando, FL

A: "I hate both of 'em so damn much but for such different reasons, it's kinda hard to say which one is number one in my book," said Rhodes. "I think Humperdink's a back-stabbin' stinkin' traitor who can't be trusted. The way he

stuck the shiv in my back and turned on me after I graced him with my friendship is somethin' I ain't never gonna forget. As for Race, he just makes the milk in my belly sour every time I think of him. He ain't worthy to be champion, he disgraces the belt, and he's a big-mouthed lout to boot. So, I guess I hate 'em evenly."

- Q: "Is Nick Bockwinkel going to try and regain the AWA title or go elsewhere for glory?"—Matt Bourne, Minneapolis, MN
- A: Both Bobby Heenan and Bockwinkel answered this question. Former AWA



Nick Bockwinkel is certain that he will soon regain the AWA title and reign for a long period of time.

champion Bockwinkel said, "Old man Gagne's living on borrowed time. He is way past his prime and ready to collapse at any moment. I am supremely confident I will regain the title unjustly taken from me and rule forever." And Heenan, Bockwinkel's manager, said, "We have a master plan so brilliant, so cunning, so comprehensive that Gagne will run from the ring rather than attempt to confront us head-on." ☐

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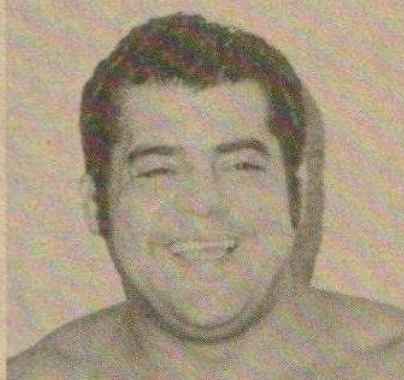
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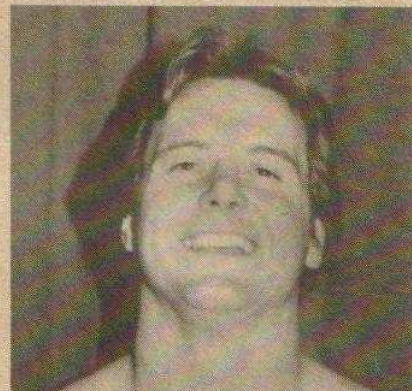
THUMBS UP, THUMBS DOWN

(Continued from Page 18)



THUMBS UP to Pedro Morales: He has not shied away from any foe nor avoided any controversy. He has maintained his high ideals and devotion to his fans—and his sport. This Intercontinental champion deserves the highest praise for his talents and his character.

THUMBS DOWN to Roddy Piper: His high-handed arrogance grows weary. If Piper believes himself so superior, then perhaps he should concentrate on demonstrating that superiority within the squared circle, instead of boring the world with his self-serving words.



THUMBS UP to Kerry Von Erich: He has come a long way. He has proven himself under the most severe forms of wrestling wars possible. Never once has he tried to hide within the considerable shadows cast by his talented family. He wants to do it by himself.

THUMBS DOWN to Crusher Blackwell: This corpulent lunatic has no shame nor, apparently, any morals whatsoever. His ruthless attack on Mad Dog Vachon resulted in Vachon's hospitalization. Now Blackwell faces the wrath and vengeance of Baron Von Raschke. Perhaps now Blackwell will learn his lesson.



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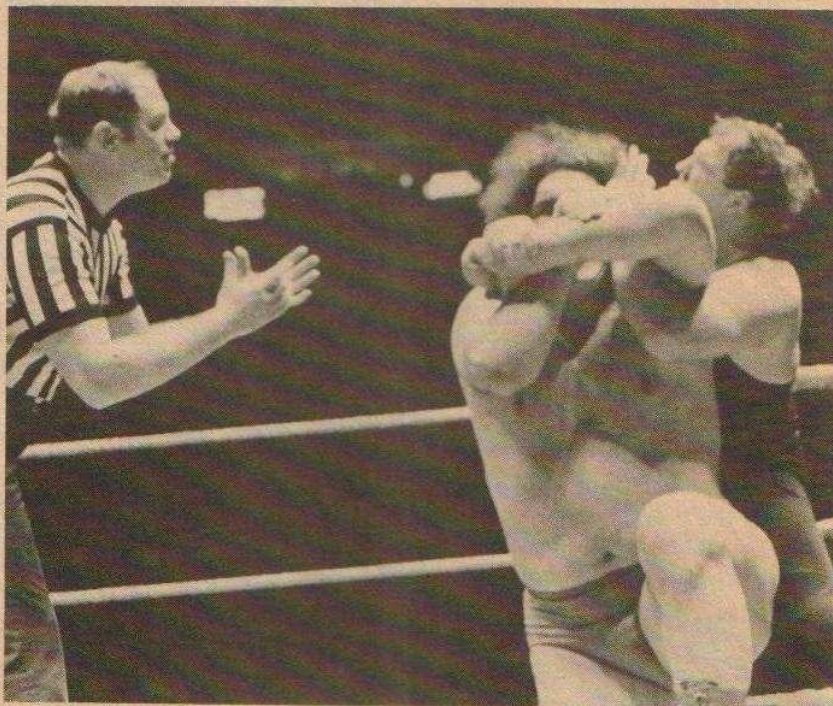
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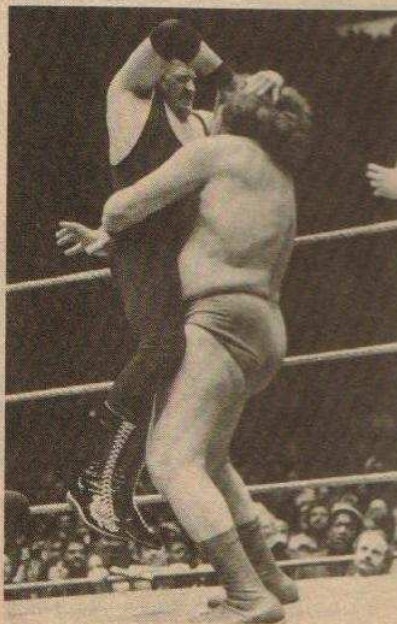
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Andre · Slaughter

(Continued from Page 35)



Andre uses his powerful arms to prevent Slaughter from completing the application of his Cobra Clutch (above). Slaughter rakes Andre's eyes to break out of a bear-hug (below).



for myself.

"He comes in here and makes big-mouthed statements and says how he's going to beat me and take my title away," said WWF champion Bob Backlund. "What am I supposed to do?"

"I've had it up to here with Slaughter's mouth," cried Pat

Patterson. "He's opened it one time too many and I want to be the one who closes it. Permanently."

Patterson's comments invite another explanation for the rough treatment accorded Slaughter thus far. Maybe the idea of a conspiracy isn't sound enough. Maybe the overwhelming hatred exhibited by WWF scientific wrestlers is merely a coincidence.

Maybe each of these wrestlers is operating out of pride. Maybe they do, deep down, acknowledge Slaughter's strengths and dangers. And just maybe, they want to be the one to end his career.

Call it macho. Call it selfishness. Call it an obsession with duty. Andre, Bruno, Bob, and Pat each have different, compelling reasons for wanting Slaughter destroyed. And now the race is on as to which one gets the job done first.

If they do.

"Let 'em send as many of them as they want," said Slaughter. "I know how to stand and fight. I've seen duty in the worst battles in history. I'm physically prepared, I'm mentally prepared, nothing or no one will take this position from me."



Sgt. Slaughter scoffs at the competition the WWF has presented before him. He doesn't even consider it competition.

"I battled long and hard to get here," continued Slaughter. "I had to fight through artillery and machine gun nests and go over land mines and fire up at planes strafing my position. I had to do this alone, just me. Of course, I have the General, my manager the Wizard, and he and I battle side-by-side. No gutless coward is gonna take this hill."

"I've seen the whites of Andre's eyes, smelled Bruno's foul breath, absorbed Backlund's crying, and Patterson's whining. They can charge up the hill as often as they want but when they get to the top, they'd better be prepared to meet Sgt. Slaughter, United States Marine Corps. As they say, Hell has no fury like a Marine enraged. Just remember that."

So who will be the one to stop Slaughter? Will it be Andre? Backlund? Sammartino? Patterson? Or none of them.

Maybe Sgt. Slaughter is tougher than they think. ☐

STRONG ARMS

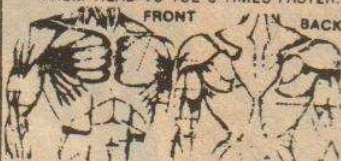
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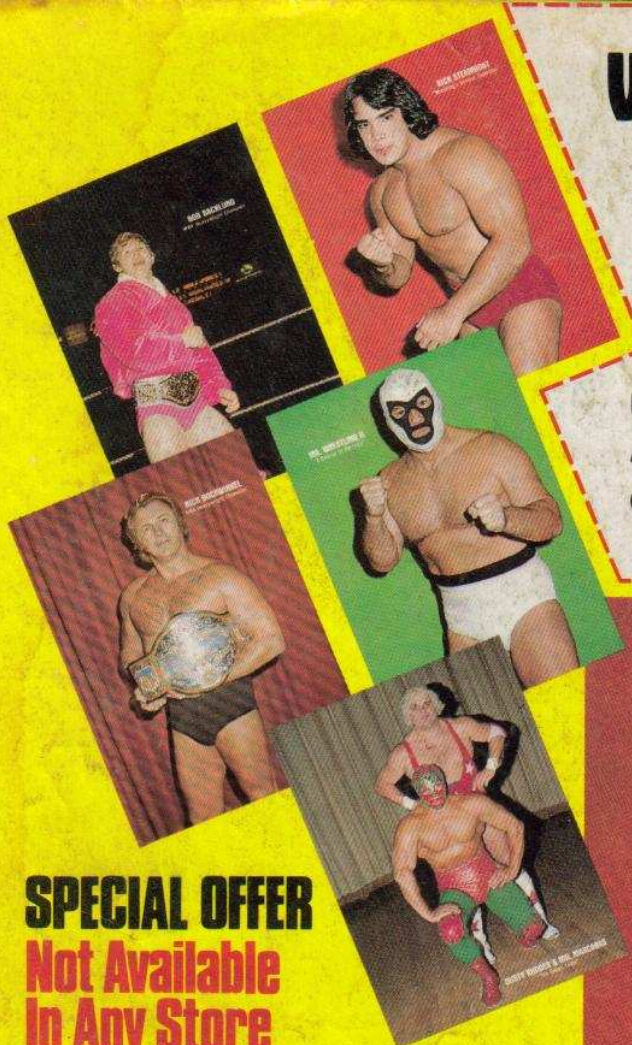
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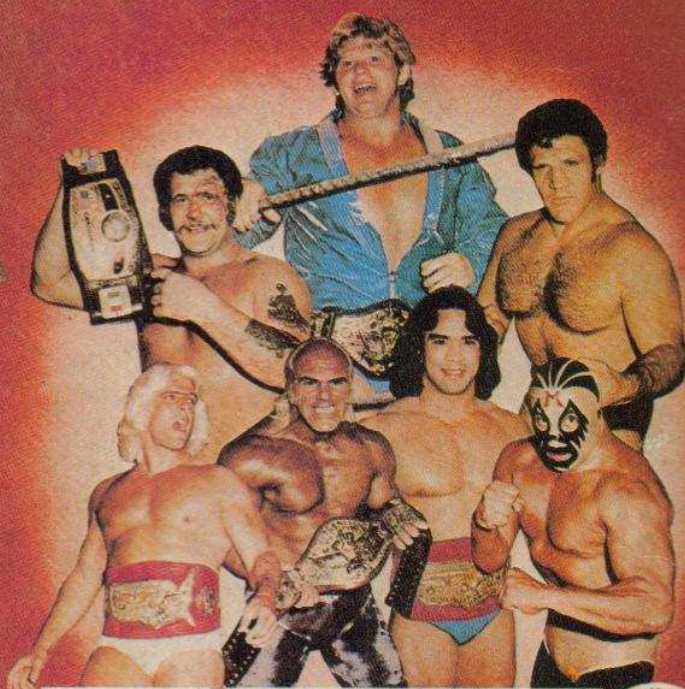
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